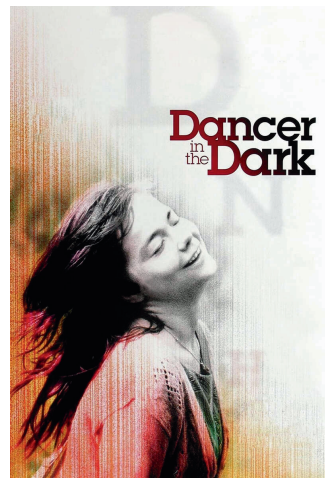
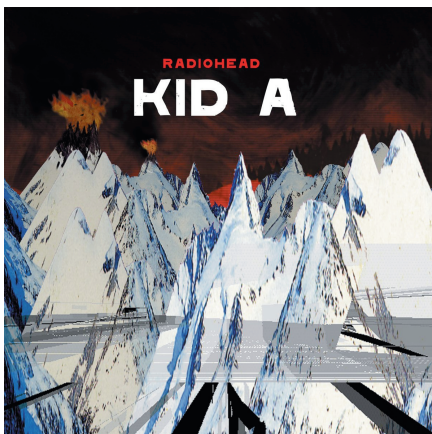
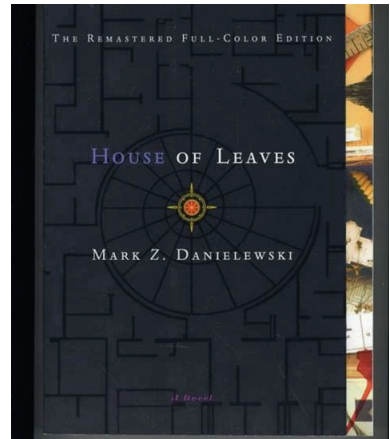
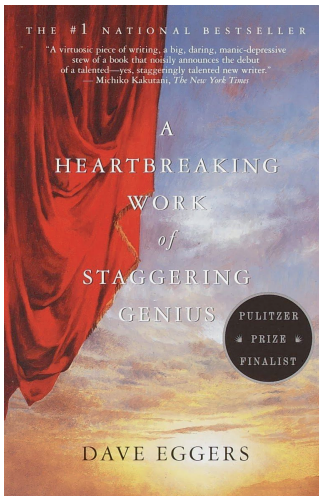


The New Canon: 2000

The Year In Culture Books, Music, Movies



2000

The Year in Culture

A collection of the most popular and intelligent cultural creations of the year 2000. Here we will survey the best books, movies and popular music. There were thousands and thousands of each type of these cultural products released; this book will attempt to narrow them down to a digestible amount, with 100 Books, 50 Movies and 50 Music Albums from the year, hopefully with something for everyone's enjoyment!

Some Notes on Organisation

Books: In the year 2000, book superstores and the popular fiction market dominated sales. Unfortunately this type of genre storytelling, often in lengthy series, does not often stand the test of time. The Novel section incorporates both best sellers and lesser known works which may have been overlooked. The Non-Fiction also includes best sellers and works that have risen in estimation.

The major publishers did an excellent job of presenting an enormous diversity of books at affordable prices. Even more promising about the years roughly 1995-2010 is that they published so many copies with the book superstore boom that many of these high quality works are able to be purchased for less money than a cup of coffee. Please do use this work as a checklist of sorts. I also include some charts of the bestsellers and award winners of the time, augmented with popularity data from Goodreads.com, which can help show which works have stood the test of time, or even gained in popularity in the last quarter decade.

Movies: The top 50 movies presented here are a mere sampling of total production, which rose into the thousands of feature films, and will not include documentary or short film. The movies selected present a blend of genres and popularity, selected from box office performance and festival award winners, with a definite slant towards movies that are currently (2025) available on streaming or physical media. The popularity data comes from the excellent resource, Letterboxd, a highly recommended movie information site - superior to Wikipedia or IMDB.

Music: 50 albums are presented here, but with listings heavily favoring major label rock. To find the biggest jazz and classical album releases of the year 2000 is difficult, and these large ensemble efforts are almost impossible to judge in terms of the inclusivity standards for the book as a whole. Another difficult area to ascertain is "indie" or underground type music. The release dates for small labels are amorphous, and the sales untracked. The list began with a ranking website called "Album of the Year" which was very useful, however it leaned heavily to UK indie rock. The blurbs are from Pitchfork, Rolling Stone or any other site where I could find a fair description.

Zeitgeist: 2000

The Top Fifty Novels of 2000

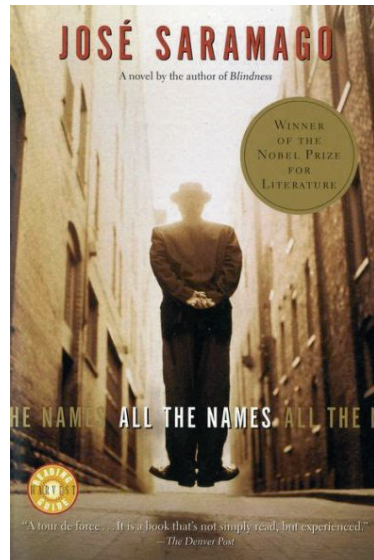
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Atlantic
Ethnicity: American
Setting: NYC, 2000

In an unnamed city all the names of the inhabitants, living and dead, are cataloged in the massive central registry of births, marriages and deaths. Each birth means the creation of a new document, and each death means shifting the document from one vast section to an even vaster one. A hapless researcher who ventures into this archival morass does not find his way out again for days. Periodically, the ancient municipal building which houses the records must be expanded to accomodate all the names.

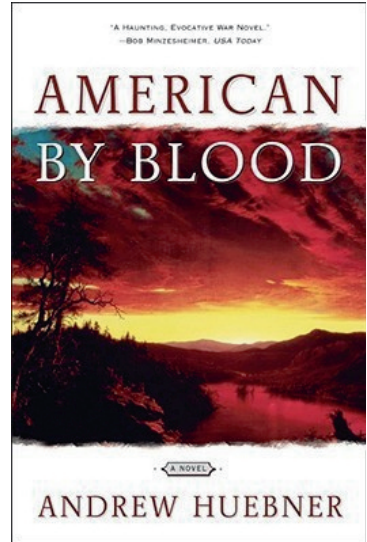
"Bushnell's quartet of blondes struggle with high-powered success, stretch marks, romantic intrigues, Manhattan expectations, dull lovers, biological clocks, and their own paranoia. Come to think of it, this novel has T.V. series potential". Torn between career and family; beauty and objectification, 4 Blondes is an example of "chick lit" urbanism that probably couldn't be written in 2025.



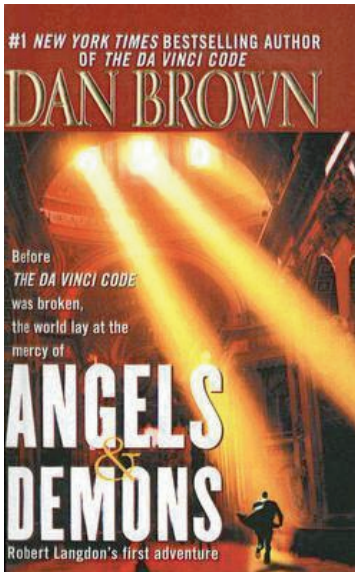
Publisher: Harcourt
Ethnicity: Portuguese
Setting: Unnamed city, unspecified time

Zeitgeist: 2000

In *American by Blood*, three U.S. Army scouts arrive a day late to join General Custer at Little Bighorn. They come upon the ruins of the Seventh Cavalry, a trail of blood and corpses defiled by wild dogs and swarms of flies. It is a scene that will haunt them for the rest of their lives. With the loss at Little Bighorn, the three men find their mission to help clear the land of Indian tribes becoming one of vengeance. As they journey into the dense forests and high plains of the Old West, each man finds more than he bargained for in this epic story that shatters some of our nation's most central myths.



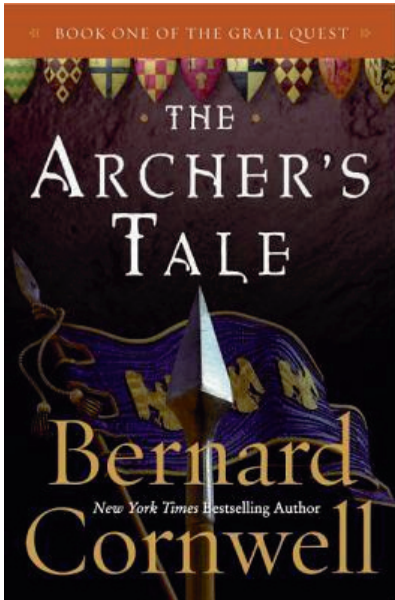
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 1870's



Publisher: Pocket
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Global, 2000

When world-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a mysterious symbol -- seared into the chest of a murdered physicist -- he discovers evidence of the unimaginable: the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati...the most powerful underground organization ever to walk the earth. The Illuminati has now surfaced to carry out the final phase of its legendary vendetta against its most hated enemy -- the Catholic Church.

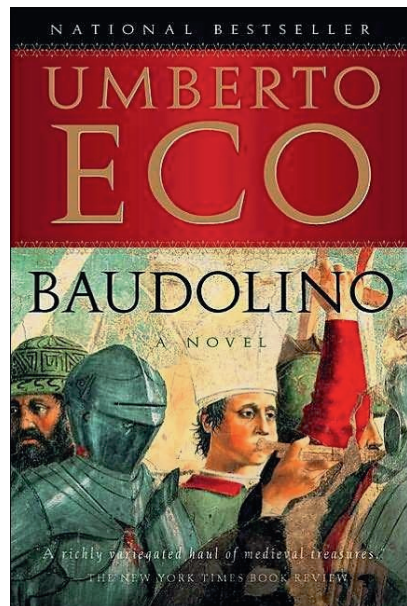
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Harper
Ethnicity: British
Setting: England, 1300's

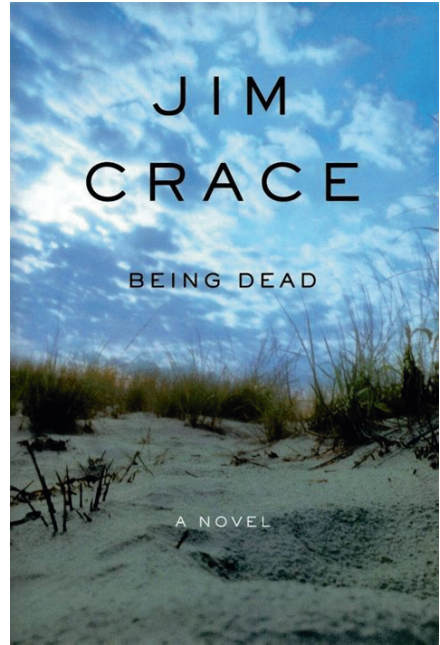
The story begins in 1155, when Baudolino – a talented Italian peasant boy – is sold to and adopted by the emperor Frederick I. He is educated in reading and writing Latin and learns about the power struggles and battles of northern Italy at the time. The incident of the death of Emperor Frederick I, while on the Third Crusade, is a key plot element. This part involves secret history – the book asserts that Emperor Frederick had not drowned in a river, as history records, but died mysteriously at night while hosted at the castle of a sinister Armenian noble.

At dawn on Easter morning 1343, a marauding band of French raiders arrives by boat to ambush the coastal English village of Hookton. To brave young Thomas, the only survivor, the horror of the attack is epitomized in the casual savagery of a particular black-clad knight, whose flag – three yellow hawks on a blue field – presides over the bloody affair. As the killers sail away, Thomas vows to avenge the murder of his townspeople and to recapture a holy treasure that the black knight stole from the church.



Publisher: Harcourt
Ethnicity: Italian
Setting: Italy, 1200

Lying in the sand dunes of Baritone Bay are the bodies of a middle-aged couple. Celice and Joseph, in their mid-50s and married for more than 30 years, are returning to the seacoast where they met as students. Instead, they are battered to death by a thief with a chunk of granite. Their corpses lie undiscovered and rotting for a week, prey to sand crabs, flies, and gulls. Yet there remains something touching about the scene, with Joseph's hand curving lightly around his wife's leg, "quietly resting; flesh on flesh; dead, but not departed yet."



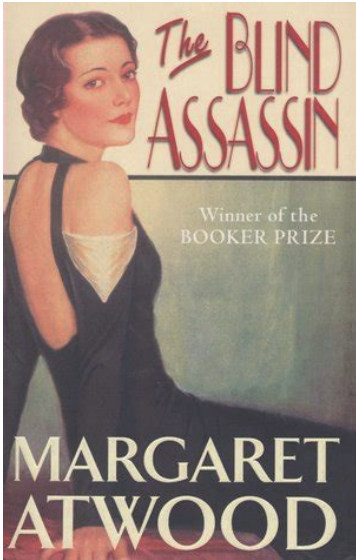
Publisher: Farrar
Ethnicity: British
Setting: UK 2000



Publisher: Random House
Ethnicity: Italian
Setting: Virginia, 2000

In the town of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, not much happens. The highlight of 35-year-old Ave Maria Mulligan's week comes on Friday, with the arrival of the Bookmobile, the sight of which sends her into raptures. Her favorite book concerns the ancient Chinese art of reading faces. Through her face-readings, we come to understand the hostilities simmering within her family: her father whose small eyes are the clear "sign of a deceptive nature." Her aunt who "has a small head and thin lips. (That's a terrible combination.)"

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction

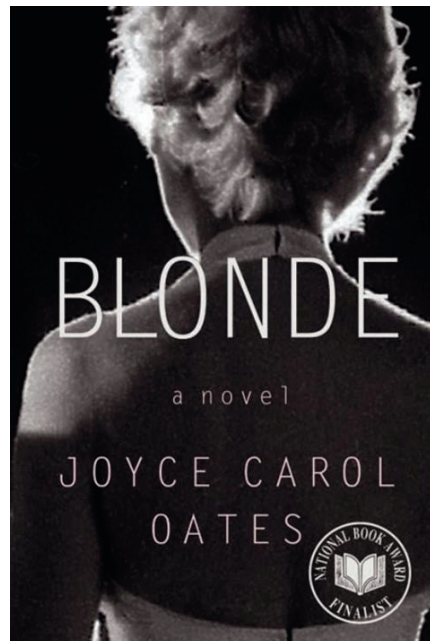


Margaret Atwood's novel opens with the death of Laura Chase, who deliberately drives off a hundred-foot bridge just after the end of World War II. This event is reported by her sister Iris Chase Griffen, presently in her eighties, who is writing a family history embellished with tart observations on life at the end of the century. Keenly aware of her age and frailty, Iris knows she has come down in the world; her front steps are rotting and money is scarce.



Publisher: Nan Talese
Ethnicity: Canadian
Setting: Toronto 1930/2000

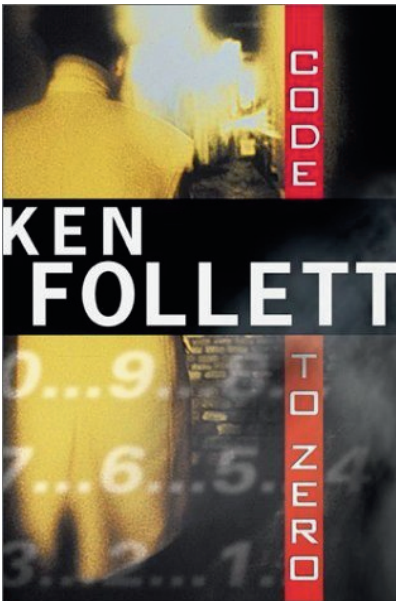
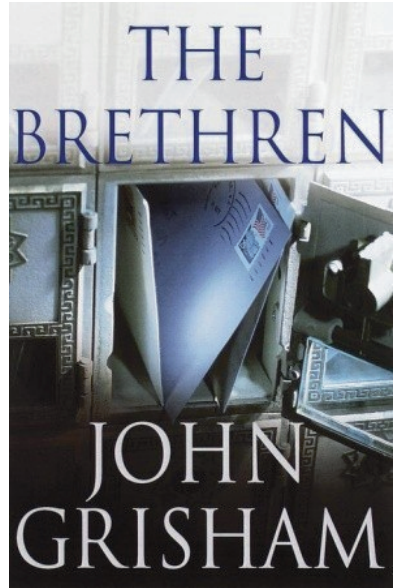
In her most ambitious work to date, Joyce Carol Oates boldly reimagines the inner, poetic, and spiritual life of Norma Jeane Baker – the child, the woman, the fated celebrity and idolized blonde the world came to know as Marilyn Monroe. In a voice startlingly intimate and rich, Norma Jeane tells her own story of an emblematic American artist – intensely conflicted and driven – who had lost her way. A powerful portrait of Hollywood's myth and an extraordinary woman's heartbreaking reality.



Publisher: Ecco
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America 1950's

Zeitgeist: 2000

They call themselves the Brethren: three disgraced former judges doing time in a Florida federal prison. One was sent up for tax evasion. Another, for skimming bingo profits. The third for a career-ending drunken joyride. Meeting daily in the prison law library, taking exercise walks in their boxer shorts, these judges-turned-felons can reminisce about old court cases, dispense a little jailhouse justice, and contemplate where their lives went wrong. Or they can use their time in prison to get very rich—very fast. ...



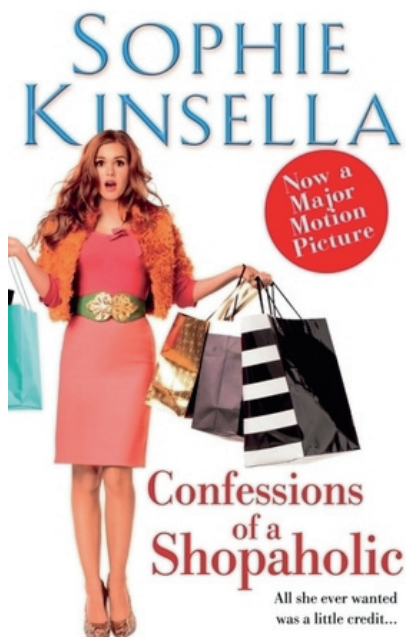
Publisher: Doubleday
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Florida, 2000

A man wakes up to find himself lying on the ground in a railway station, his mind stripped bare of all recollection. He has no idea how he got there; he does not even know his own name. Convinced he is a drunken down and out, it isn't until a newspaper report about a satellite launch catches his eye that he suspects all is not what it seems...



Publisher: Dutton
Ethnicity: Welsh
Setting: America, 1958

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction

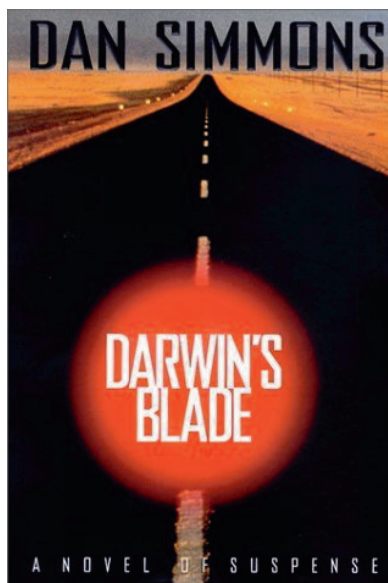


Becky has a fabulous flat in London's trendiest neighborhood, a troupe of glamorous socialite friends, and a closet brimming with the season's must-haves. The only trouble is that she can't actually afford it—not any of it. Her job writing at Successful Savings not only bores her to tears, it doesn't pay much at all. And lately Becky's been chased by dismal letters from the bank—letters with large red sums she can't bear to read—and they're getting ever harder to ignore.



Publisher: Black Swan
Ethnicity: British
Setting: London 2000

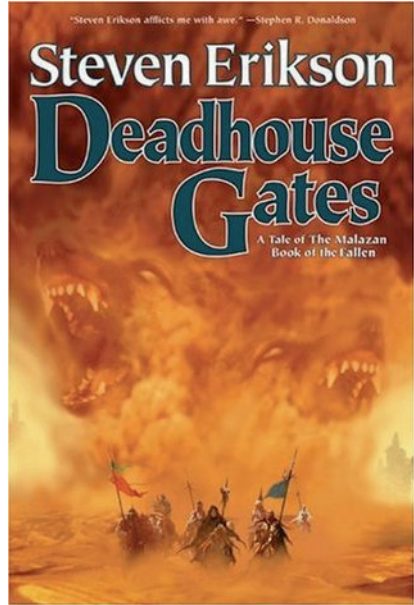
A series of high-speed fatal car wrecks -- accidents that seem as if they may have been staged -- is leading Darwin Minor down a dangerous road. A reluctant expert on violent ways to die, he sifts clues from wreckage the way a brilliant coroner extracts damning information from a victim's corpse. But the deeper he digs, the more enemies he seems to make, and the wider the conspiracy seems to grow. Before long, he'll find himself relying on deadly resources of his own in order to save his life -- and those of untold others.



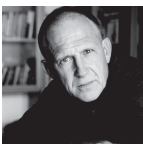
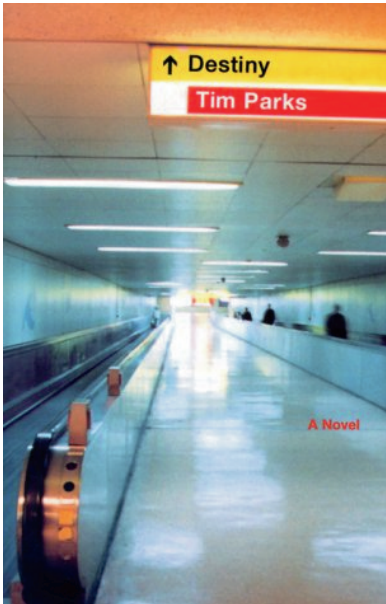
Publisher: Morrow
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

Zeitgeist: 2000

As cities fall to the rebellion, the Malazan forces stationed in the city of Hissar devise a daring plan to evacuate overland to Aren, the Malazan continental capital. The 7th Army, commanded by the legendary Coltaine of the Crow Clan of the Wickans, is tasked with escorting 50,000 refugees on a perilous 1,500-mile march to safety. This extraordinary journey, known as the Chain of Dogs, becomes a defining legend of Seven Cities.



Publisher: Tor
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Epic Fantasy



Publisher: Secker & Warburg
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Italy 2000

Was their troubled son somehow the victim of their long, explosive love-hate relationship? Looking back, Burton sees in his life a web of contradictions, unanswered questions, and confusions. And yet, this life has been his destiny. Intensely dramatic, dark, and yet often hilariously funny, *Destiny* is a seamless, beautifully plotted story and a profound meditation on marriage and identity, at once romantic and callous, brilliant and blind. In *Destiny*, Parks offers us a searing account of what it means to tread the narrow line between sanity and psychosis."

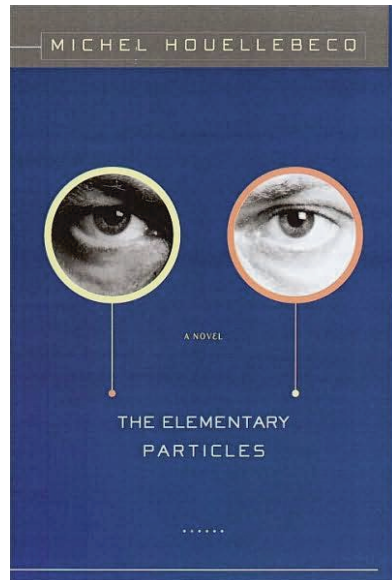
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Duffy
Ethnicity: Australian
Setting: Australia 1950's

After twenty years spent mastering the art of dressmaking at couture houses in Paris, Tilly Dunnage returns to the small Australian town she was banished from as a child. She plans only to check on her ailing mother and leave. But Tilly decides to stay, and though she is still an outcast, her lush, exquisite dresses prove irresistible to the prim women of Dungatar. Through her fashion business, her friendship with Sergeant Farrat—the town's only policeman, who harbors an unusual passion for fabrics—and a budding romance with Teddy, the local football star whose family is almost as reviled as hers, she finds a measure of grudging acceptance.

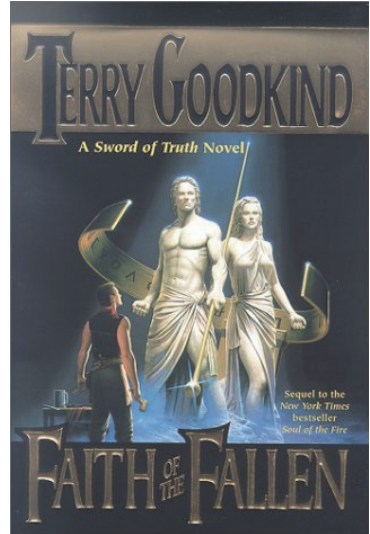
Bruno and Michel are half-brothers abandoned by their mother, an unabashed devotee of the drugged-out free-love world of the sixties. Bruno, the older, has become a raucously promiscuous hedonist himself, while Michel is an emotionally dead molecular biologist wholly immersed in the solitude of his work. Each is ultimately offered a final chance at genuine love, and what unfolds is a brilliantly caustic and unpredictable tale.



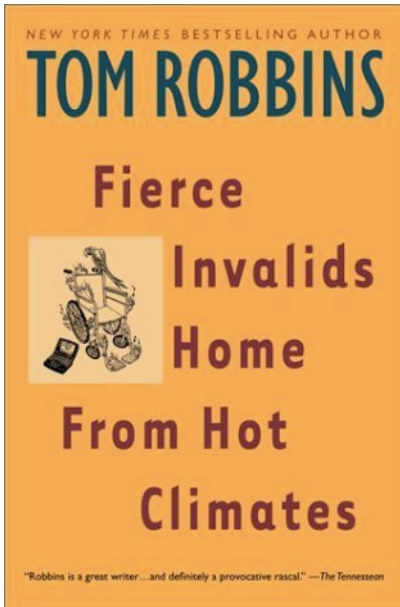
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: French
Setting: Paris, 2000

Zeitgeist: 2000

The Imperial Order continues to bring an undesired war upon the New World. Its mission is to enslave the world in a system in which no human being can aspire to anything more than mediocrity. Meanwhile, Richard, Cara and Kahlan return to Westland. Richard believes that if he leads the armies of the New World directly into a confrontation with the armies of the Imperial Order, he will lose the battle and the New World will fall prey to the grasp of death and slavery.



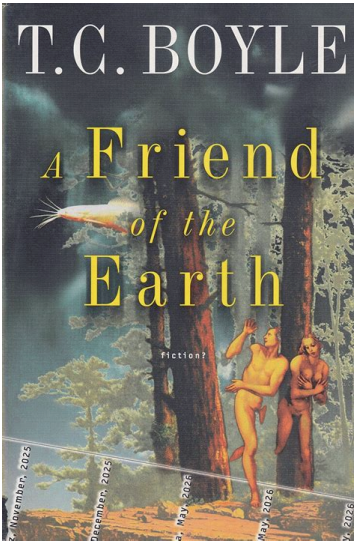
Publisher: Tor
Ethnicity: American
Setting: High Fantasy



Publisher: Bantam
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

Switters is a contradiction for all seasons: an anarchist who works for the government; a pacifist who carries a gun; a vegetarian who sops up ham gravy; a cyberwhiz who hates computers; a man who, though obsessed with the preservation of innocence, is aching to deflower his high-school-age stepsister (only to become equally enamored of a nun ten years his senior). Yet there is nothing remotely wishy-washy about Switters. He doesn't merely pack a pistol. He is a pistol. Tom Robbins—that fearless storyteller, spiritual renegade, and verbal break dancer—is here at the top of his game.

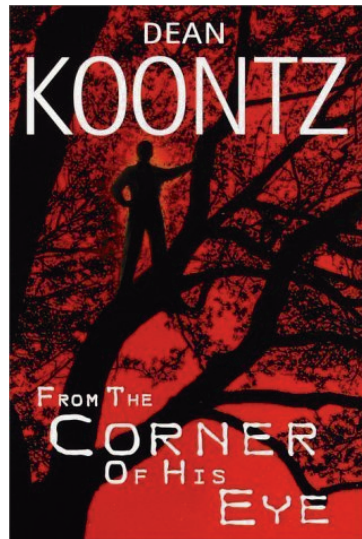
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Viking
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Future America,
2025

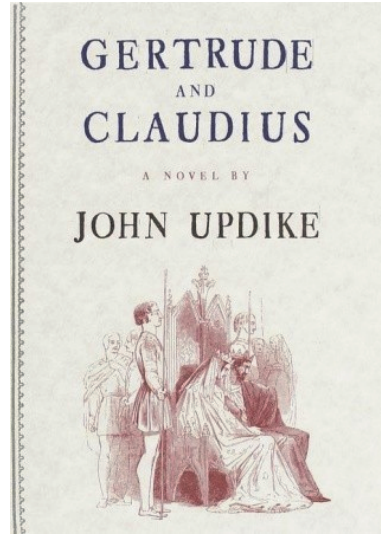
It is the year 2025. Global warming is a reality. The biosphere has collapsed and most mammals--not to mention fish, birds, and frogs--are extinct. Tyrone Tierwater is eking out a bleak living in southern California, managing a pop star's private menagerie that only a mother could love--scruffy hyenas, jackals, warthogs, and three down-at-the-mouth lions. Once he was a passionate environmentalist, so committed to saving the earth that he became an eco-terrorist and, ultimately, a convicted felon. as a member of the radical group Earth Forever!, he unwittingly endangered both his daughter Sierra and his wife Andrea.

Bartholomew Lampion is born on a day of tragedy and terror that will mark his family forever. All agree that his unusual eyes are the most beautiful they have ever seen. On this same day, a thousand miles away, a ruthless man learns that he has a mortal enemy named Bartholomew. He embarks on a relentless search to find this enemy, a search that will consume his life. And a girl is born from a brutal rape, her destiny mysteriously linked to Barty and the man who stalks him.



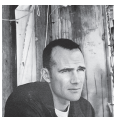
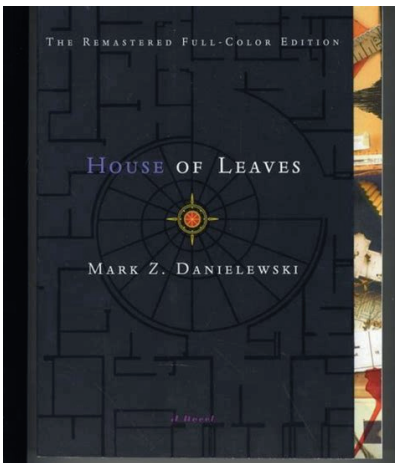
Publisher: Bantam
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

John Updikes's nineteenth novel tells the story of Claudius and Gertrude, King and Queen of Denmark, before the action of Shakespeare's Hamlet begins. Employing the nomenclature and certain details of the ancient Scandinavian legends that first describe the prince who feigns madness to achieve revenge upon his father's slayer, Updike brings to life Gertrude's girlhood as the daughter of King Rorik, her arranged marriage to the man who becomes King Hamlet, and her middle-aged affair with her husband's younger brother.



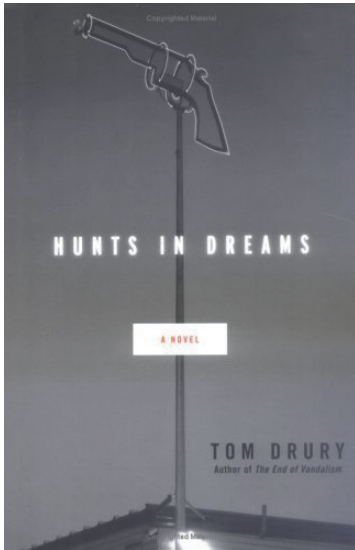
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Denmark, 1000

A young family moves into a small home on Ash Tree Lane where they discover something is terribly wrong: their house is bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. Of course, neither Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Will Navidson nor his companion Karen Green was prepared to face the consequences of that impossibility, until the day their two little children wandered off and their voices eerily began to return another story—of creature darkness, of an ever-growing abyss behind a closet door, and of that unholy growl which soon enough would tear through their walls and consume all their dreams.



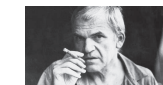
Publisher: Random House
Ethnicity: Polish
Setting: America, 2000

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



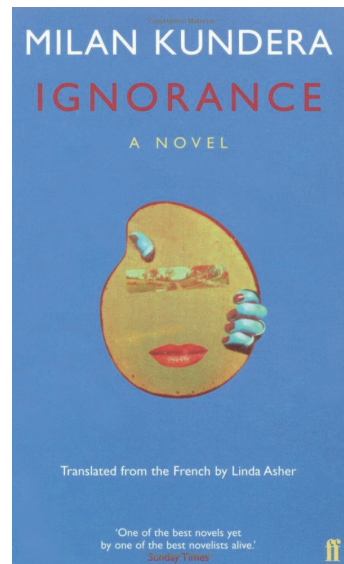
Publisher: Houghton
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

In *Ignorance*, set in contemporary Prague, one of the most distinguished writers of our time takes up the complex and emotionally charged theme of exile and creates from it a literary masterpiece. A man and a woman meet by chance while returning to their homeland, which they had abandoned twenty years earlier when they chose to become exiles. Will they manage to pick up the thread of their strange love story, interrupted almost as soon as it began and then lost in the tides of history? The truth is that after such a long absence 'their memories no longer match.'

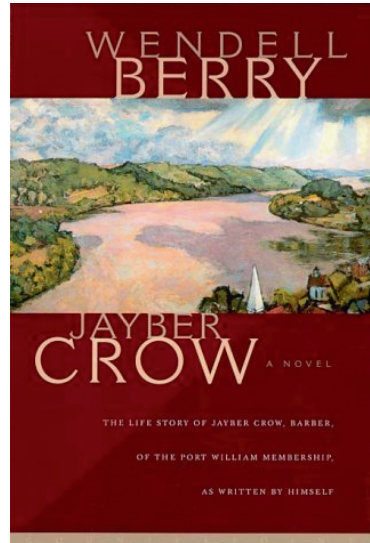


Publisher: Faber
Ethnicity: Czech
Setting: Prague, 2000

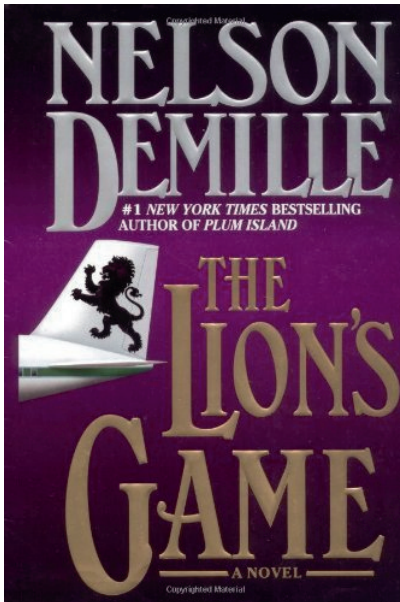
In this mesmerizing novel, Tom Drury once again journeys to the quiet Midwest to spend an action-packed October weekend in the lives of a precarious family whose members all want something without knowing how to get it: for Charles, an heirloom shotgun; for his wife, Joan, the imaginative life she once knew; for their young son, Micah, a knowledge of the scope and reliability of his world, aided by prowling the empty town at night; and for Joan's daughter, Lyriss, a stable foot from which to begin to grow up.



"This is a book about Heaven," says Jayber Crow, "but I must say too that . . . I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell." It is 1932 and he has returned to his native Port William to become the town's barber. Orphaned at age ten, Jayber Crow's acquaintance with loneliness and want have made him a patient observer of the human animal, in both its goodness and frailty. He began his search as a "pre-ministerial student" at Pigeonville College.



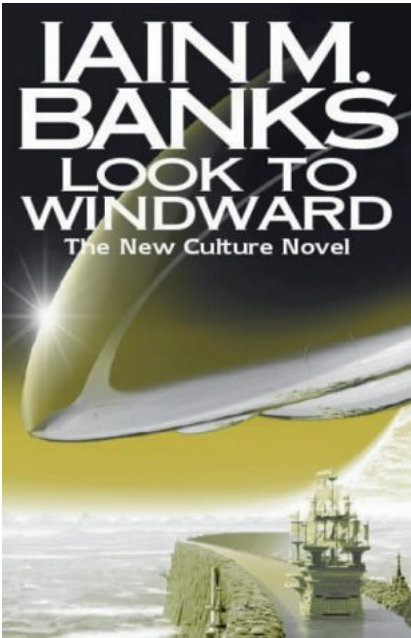
Publisher: Counterpoint
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000



Publisher: Grand Central
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

Detective John Corey, last seen in Plum Island, now faces his toughest assignment yet: the pursuit and capture of the world's most dangerous terrorist -- a young Arab known as "The Lion" who has baffled a federal task force and shows no sign of stopping in his quest for revenge against the American pilots who bombed Libya and killed his family. Filled with unrelenting suspense and surprising plot twists at every terrifying turn, **THE LION'S GAME** is a heartstopping race against time and one of Nelson DeMille's most riveting thrillers.

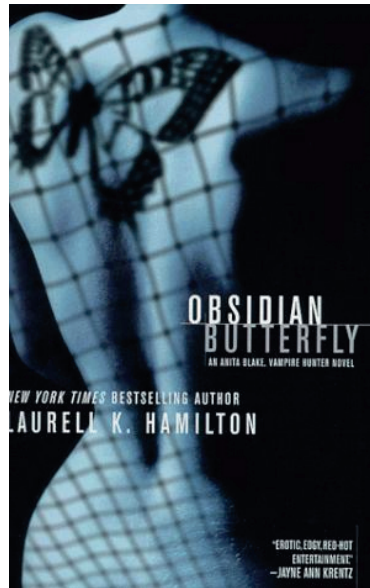
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Orbit
Ethnicity: British
Setting: SF Future

“My name is Anita Blake. I'd like you to meet Edward... ” Edward was a hit man. He specialized in monsters. Vampires, shape-shifters, anything and everything. There were people like me who did it legal, but Edward didn't sweat the legalities or, hell, the ethics. He was an equal opportunity killer. I may be one of the few friends that Edward has, but it's like being friends with a tame leopard. It may curl on the foot of your bed and let you pet its head, but it can still eat your throat out...

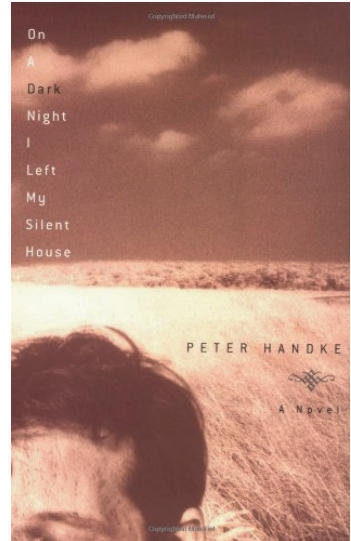
It was one of the less glorious incidents of a long-ago war. It led to the destruction of two suns and the billions of live they supported. Now, eight hundred years later, the light from the first of those ancient deaths has reached the Culture Orbital called Masag'. For the Hub Mind, overseer of the massive bracelet world, its arrival is particularly poignant. But it may still be eclipsed by events from the Culture's more recent past.



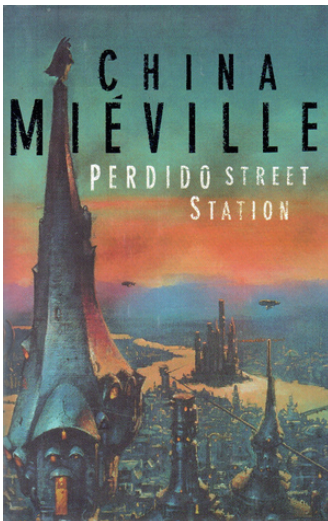
Publisher: Berkley
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America, 2000

Zeitgeist: 2000

A short, powerful new novel by one of the greatest writers in the German language. *On a Dark Night I Left My Silent House* is Peter Handke's evocative, moving, often fantastic, novel about one man's conflict with himself and his journey toward resolution. During one night shift, an unnamed, middle-aged pharmacist in Taxham, an isolated suburb of Salzburg, tells his story to a narrator. The pharmacist is known and well-respected, but lonely and estranged from his wife. He feels most comfortable wandering about in nature, collecting and eating hallucinogenic mushrooms.



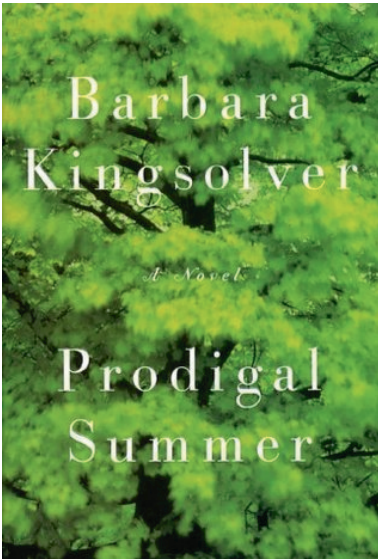
Publisher: Farrar
Ethnicity: German
Setting: Salzburg, 2000



Publisher: Macmillan
Ethnicity: British
Setting: SF Future

Beneath the towering bleached ribs of a dead, ancient beast lies New Crobuzon, a squalid city where humans, Re-mades, and arcane races live in perpetual fear of Parliament and its brutal militia. The air and rivers are thick with factory pollutants and the strange effluents of alchemy, and the ghettos contain a vast mix of workers, artists, spies, junkies, and whores. In New Crobuzon, the unsavory deal is stranger to none—not even to Isaac, a brilliant scientist with a penchant for Crisis Theory. Isaac has spent a lifetime quietly carrying out his unique research.

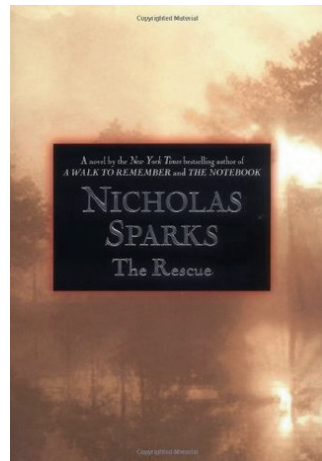
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Harper
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Appalachia, 2000

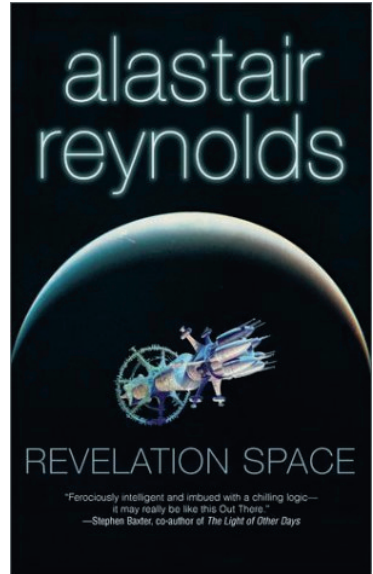
Prodigal Summer weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives inhabiting the forested mountains and struggling small farms of southern Appalachia. From her outpost in an isolated mountain cabin, Deanna Wolfe, a reclusive wildlife biologist, watches a den of coyotes that have recently migrated into the region. She is caught off-guard by a young hunter who invades her most private spaces and confounds her self-assured, solitary life. On a farm several miles down the mountain, Lusa Maluf Landowski, a bookish city girl turned farmer's wife, finds herself unexpectedly marooned in a strange place where she must declare or lose her attachment to the land that has become her own.

When confronted by raging fires or deadly accidents, volunteer fireman Taylor McAden feels compelled to take terrifying risks - risks no one else in the department would ever take - to save lives. But there is one leap of faith Taylor can't bring himself to make: He can't fall in love. For all his adult years, Taylor has sought out women who need to be rescued, women he leaves as soon as their crisis is over, as soon as the relationship starts to become truly intimate.

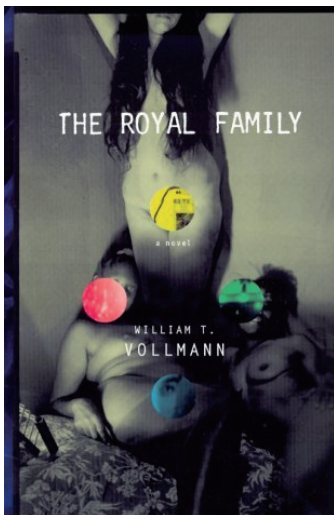


Publisher: Grand Central
Ethnicity: American
Setting: North Carolina, 2000

Nine hundred thousand years ago, something wiped out the Amarantin. For the humans now settling the Amarantin homeworld, it's of little more than academic interest, even after the discovery of a long-hidden, almost perfect city and a colossal statue of a winged Amarantin. For brilliant, ruthless scientist Dan Sylveste, it's more than merely intellectual curiosity - and he will stop at nothing to get at the truth. Even if it costs him everything. But the Amarantin were wiped out for a reason, and that danger is closer and greater than even Sylveste imagines...



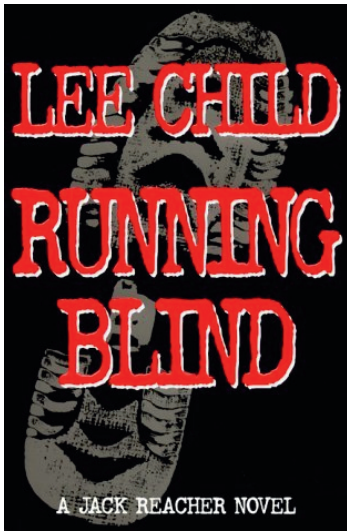
Publisher: Gollancz
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Future SF



Publisher: Viking
Ethnicity: American
Setting: San Francisco, 2000

The plot is relatively simple: Henry Tyler, a down-at-the-heels p.i. in San Francisco, is drawn into the search for a mythic "Queen of the Prostitutes," rumored to hold nocturnal court in the city's seedier precincts. He is still grieving for his lost love, Irene, who committed suicide. These tales of addiction and abandonment, of abuse and of survival, are what makes *The Royal Family* memorable. Vollmann weaves their voices together with the Tenderloin's other inhabitants—drunks, anonymous johns, wanderers, hustlers—creating a haunting chorus of the lost. He also

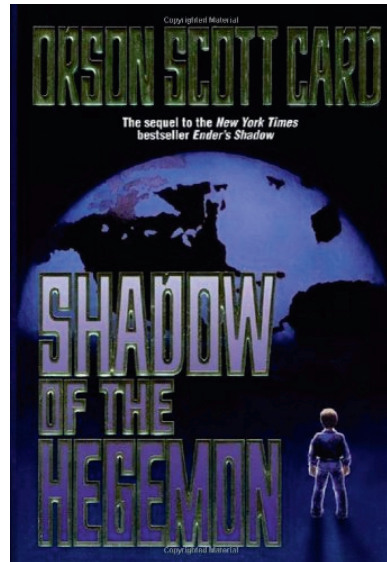
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Putnam
Ethnicity: British
Setting: USA, 2000

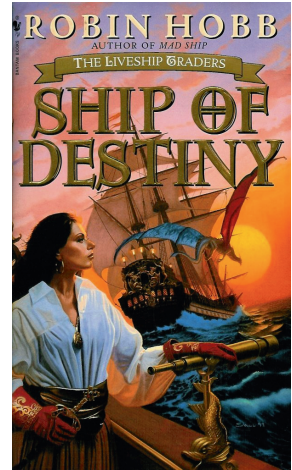
The prologue opens with a mystery person's point of view on knowledge, power and killing: "People say that knowledge is power. The more knowledge, the more power. Suppose you knew the winning numbers for the lottery? You would run to the store. And you would win. Same for the stock market. You're not talking about a trend or a percentage game or a whisper or a tip. You're talking about knowledge. Real, hard knowledge. You would buy. Then later you'd sell, and you'd be rich. Any kind of sports at all, if you could predict the future, you'd be home and dry. Same for anything. Same for killing people."

The War is over, won by Ender Wiggin and his team of brilliant child-warriors. The enemy is destroyed, the human race is saved. Ender himself refuses to return to the planet, but his crew has gone home to their families, scattered across the globe. The battle school is no more. But with the external threat gone, the Earth has become a battlefield once more. The children of the Battle School are more than heroes; they are potential weapons that can bring power to the countries that control them. One by one, all of Ender's Dragon Army are kidnapped. Only Bean escapes; and he turns for help to Ender's brother Peter.

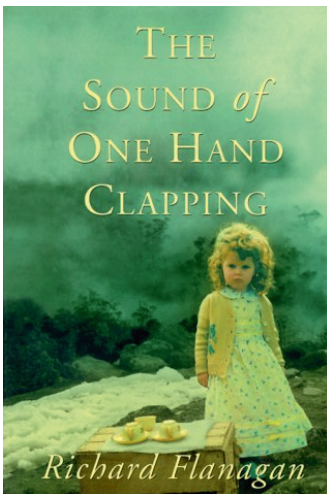


Publisher: Tor
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Future SF

As Bingtown slides toward disaster, clan matriarch Ronica Vestrit, branded a traitor, searches for a way to bring the city's inhabitants together against a momentous threat. Meanwhile, Althea Vestrit, unaware of what has befallen Bingtown and her family, continues her perilous quest to track down and recover her liveship, the Vivacia, from the ruthless pirate Kennit. Bold though it is, Althea's scheme may be in vain. For her beloved Vivacia will face the most terrible confrontation of all as the secret of the liveships is revealed. It is a truth so shattering, it may destroy the Vivacia and all who love her, including Althea's nephew, whose life already hangs in the balance.



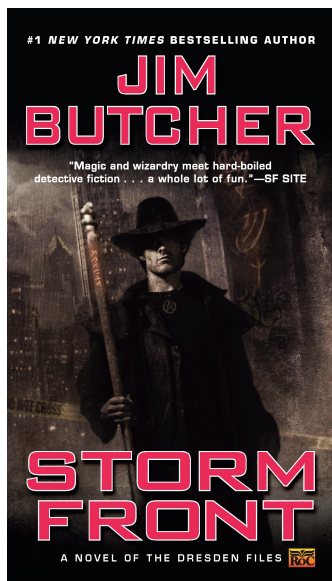
Publisher: Spectra
Ethnicity: American
Setting: High Fantasy



Publisher: Atlantic
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Australia 1950

A sweeping novel of world war, migration, and the search for new beginnings in a new land, *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* was both critically acclaimed and a best-seller in Australia. It is a virtuoso performance from an Australian who is emerging as one of our most talented new storytellers. It was 1954, in a construction camp for a hydroelectric dam in the remote Tasmanian highlands, where Bojan Buloh had brought his family to start a new life away from Slovenia, the privations of war, and refugee settlements. One night, Bojan's wife walked off into a blizzard, never to return – leaving Bojan to drink too much to quiet his ghosts, and to care for his three-year-old daughter Sonja alone.

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



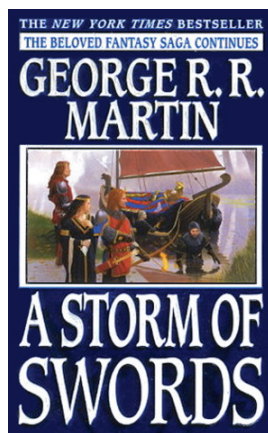
Publish: Roc

Ethnicity: American

Setting: Fantasy present

Harry Dresden is the best at what he does. Well, technically, he's the only at what he does. So when the Chicago P.D. has a case that transcends mortal creativity or capability, they come to him for answers. For the "everyday" world is actually full of strange and magical things—and most don't play well with humans. That's where Harry comes in. Takes a wizard to catch a—well, whatever. There's just one problem. Business, to put it mildly, stinks. So when the police bring him in to consult on a grisly double murder committed with black magic, Harry's seeing dollar signs. But where there's black magic, there's a black mage behind it. And now that mage knows Harry's name. And that's when things start to get interesting.

Of the five contenders for power, one is dead, another in disfavor, and still the wars rage as alliances are made and broken. Joffrey sits on the Iron Throne, the uneasy ruler of the Seven Kingdoms. His most bitter rival, Lord Stannis, stands defeated and disgraced, victim of the sorceress who holds him in her thrall. Young Robb still rules the North from the fortress of Riverrun. Meanwhile, making her way across a blood-drenched continent is the exiled queen, Daenerys, mistress of the only three dragons still left in the world.



Publisher: Bantam

Ethnicity: American

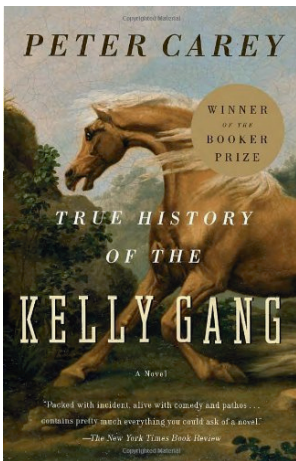
Setting: High Fantasy

Zeitgeist: 2000

Eden-Olympia is more than just a multinational business park, it is a virtual city-state in itself, built for the most elite high-tech industries. Isolated and secure, the residents lack nothing, yet one day, a doctor at the clinic goes on a suicidal shooting spree. Dr. Jane Sinclair is hired as his replacement, and her husband Paul uncovers the dangerous psychological vents that maintain Eden-Olympia's smoothly-running surface.



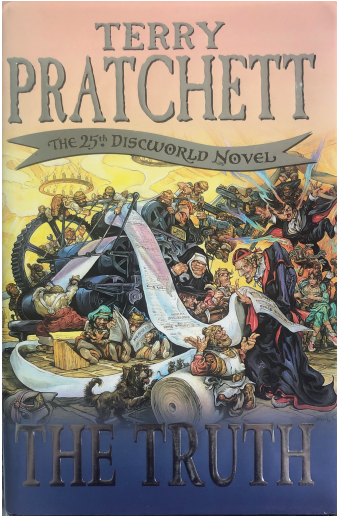
Publisher: Flamingo
Ethnicity: British
Setting: future France



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: Australian
Setting: Australia
1880

"I lost my own father at 12 yr. of age and know what it is to be raised on lies and silences my dear daughter you are presently too young to understand a word I write but this history is for you and will contain no single lie may I burn in Hell if I speak false." In True History of the Kelly Gang, the legendary Ned Kelly speaks for himself, scribbling his narrative on errant scraps of paper in semiliterate but magically descriptive prose as he flees from the police. To his pursuers, Kelly is nothing but a monstrous criminal, a thief and a murderer. To his own people, the lowly class of ordinary Australians, the bushranger is a hero, defying the authority of the English to direct their lives.

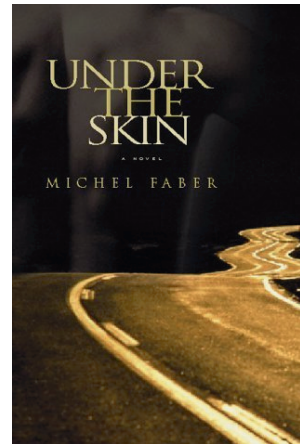
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Harper
Ethnicity: British
Setting: High Fantasy

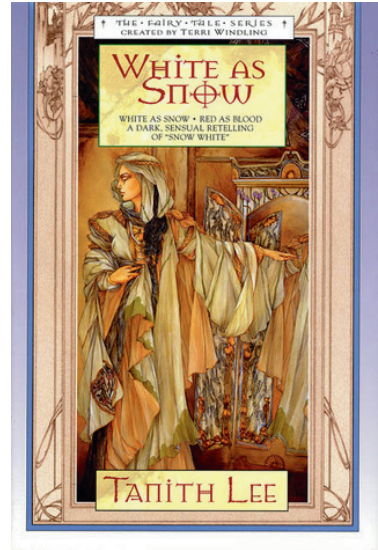
William de Worde is the accidental editor of the Discworld's first newspaper. Now he must cope with the traditional perils of a journalist's life - people who want him dead, a recovering vampire with a suicidal fascination for flash photography, some more people who want him dead in a different way and, worst of all, the man who keeps begging him to publish pictures of his humorously shaped potatoes. William just wants to get at THE TRUTH. Unfortunately, everyone else wants to get at William. And it's only the third edition...

Isserley picks up hitchhikers with big muscles. She, herself, is tiny—like a kid peering up over the steering wheel. She has a remarkable face and wears the thickest corrective lenses anyone has ever seen. Her posture is suggestive of some spinal problem. Her breasts are perfect; perhaps implants. She is strangely erotic yet somehow grotesque, vulnerable yet threatening. Her hitchhikers are a mixed bunch of men—trailer trash and travelling postgrads, thugs and philosophers.

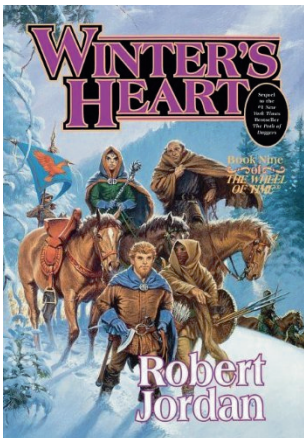


Publisher: Harcourt
Ethnicity: Dutch
Setting: Scotland 2000

Once upon a time there was a mirror . . . So begins this dark, unusual retelling of the story of Snow White by the writer reviewers have called "the Angela Carter of the fantasy field." Tanith Lee's collection of fairy stories, *Red as Blood: Tales from the Sisters Grimmer*, is an acknowledged classic of fairy tale literature for adults. Now this mistress of the fairy-tale form gives readers a whole novel based on a beloved story, turning it into a dark and sensual drama full of myth and magic. Arpazia is the aging queen who paces the halls of a warlord's palace. Cold as winter, she has only one passion—for the mysterious hunter who courts the outlawed old gods of the woodland.



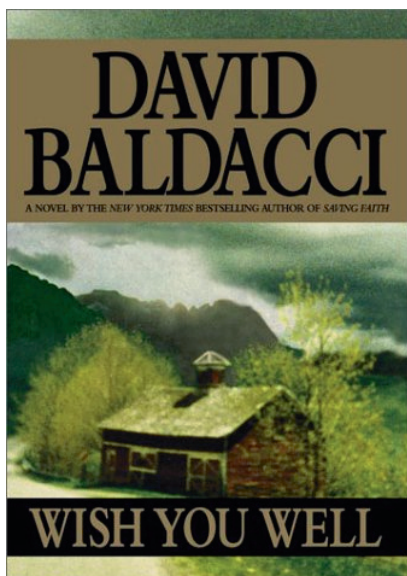
Publisher: Tor
 Ethnicity: British
 Setting: High Fantasy



Publisher: Tor
 Ethnicity: American
 Setting: High Fantasy

Rand is on the run with Min, and in Cairhein, Cadsuane is trying to figure out where he is headed. Rand's destination is, in fact, one she has never considered. Mazrim Taim, leader of the Black Tower, is revealed to be a liar. But what is he up to? Faile, with the Aiel Maidens, Bain and Chiad, and her companions, Queen Alliandre and Morgase, is prisoner of Savanna's sept. Perrin is desperately searching for Faile. With Elyas Machera, Berelain, the Prophet and a very mixed "army" of disparate forces, he is moving through country rife with bandits

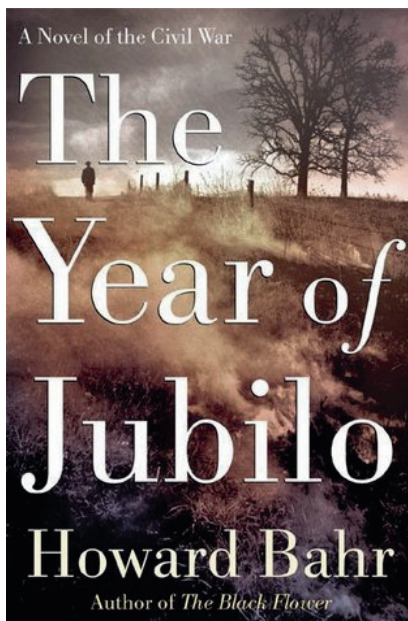
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Warner
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Virginia, 1940

On a spring day in 1865 Gawain Harper trudges toward his home in Cumberland, Mississippi, where three years earlier he had boarded a train carrying the latest enlistees in the Mississippi Infantry. Unmoved by the cause that motivated so many others, he had joined up only when Morgan Rhea's father told Gawain that he would never wed his beloved Morgan unless he did his part in the war effort. Upon his return, he discovers post-war life is far from what he expected. Morgan has indeed waited for him, but before they can marry there are scores to be settled.

Precocious twelve-year-old Louisa Mae Cardinal lives in the hectic New York City of 1940 with her family. Then tragedy strikes -- and Lou and her younger brother, Oz, must go with their invalid mother to live on their great-grandmother's farm in the Virginia mountains. Suddenly Lou finds herself coming of age in a new landscape, making her first true friend, and experiencing adventures tragic, comic, and audacious. But the forces of greed and justice are about to clash over her new home...and as their struggle is played out in a crowded Virginia courtroom, it will determine the future of two children, an entire town, and the mountains they love.



Publisher: Holt
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Miss., 1865

Zeitgeist: 2000

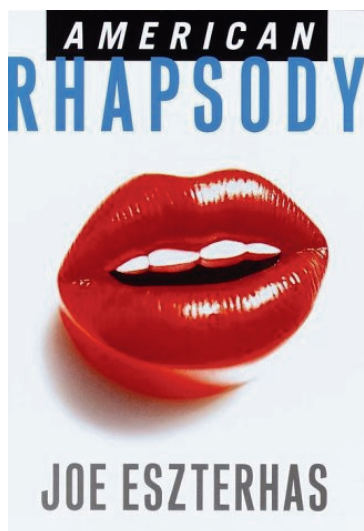
Series Sidebar

The Bear and the Dragon, Tom Clancy.
Deadhouse Gates, Steven Erickson
Faith of the Fallen, Terry Goodkind
The Lion's Game, Nelson B. DeMille
Look to Windward, Iain M. Banks
Obsidian Butterfly, Laurell K. Hamilton
Running Blind, Lee Child
Shadow of the Hegemon, Orson Scott Card
Ship of Destiny, Robin Hobb
Storm of Swords, George R. R. Martin
Truth, Terry Pratchett
Winter's Heart, Robert Jordan

Other Notable Non-Fiction:

The Third Reich: A New History, Michael Burleigh
Roger Ebert's 2000 Movie Companion, Roger Ebert

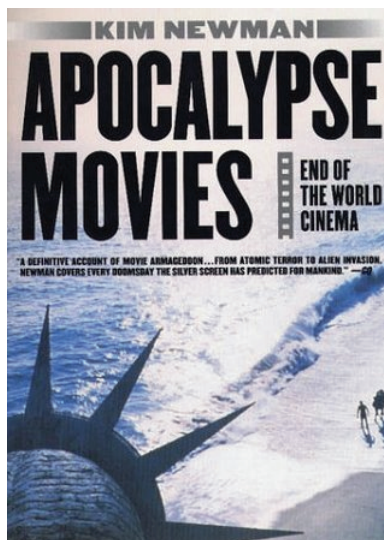
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: Hungarian
Setting: America 1990's

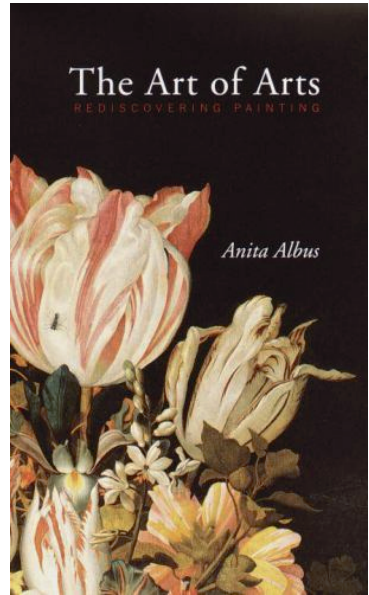
The common thread, from post-1945 on, is The Bomb, and as Newman's sublime thesis suggests, ALL MOVIES post WWII have had to acknowledge the reality of the nuclear genie in some way. Most insightful 'Learning to Love the Bomb,' focusing on sci-fi films during mid-sixties, early-seventies detente' and 'There ain't no Sedalia!' examines the last major burst of made-for-TV nuclear war movies in the mid-(Reagan)eighties. Newman's critical eye, sharp prose turns this into a landmark book of film scholarship. Film buy it, read it, read it again."

If the Watergate scandal was a previous generation's National Nightmare, then maybe the Clinton scandal was our National Wet Dream, and who better to narrate it than the screenwriter Joe Eszterhas? In *American Rhapsody*, Eszterhas, whose credits include *Basic Instinct* and *Showgirls*, and Charlie Simpson's *Apocalypse*, for which he was nominated for a National Book Award, takes us through the events that threatened to topple a president and left most of the nation's citizens with, at the very least, a bad taste in their mouths.

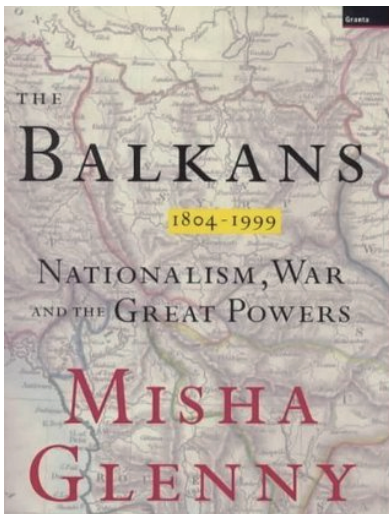


Publisher: St. Martin's
Ethnicity: British
Setting: 20th C. Films

Anita Albus describes the birth and evolution of trompe-l'oeil painting in oils in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, focusing her attention on works by northern European artists—both major and minor. As a scholar, she stands in the tradition of Panofsky; as a painter, she is able to see things others have not yet perceived; as a storyteller, she skillfully describes abstract notions in a vivid and exciting way. Like the multilayered technique of the Old Masters, her method assumes an ability to distinguish between the different levels, as well as a talent for synthesizing them.



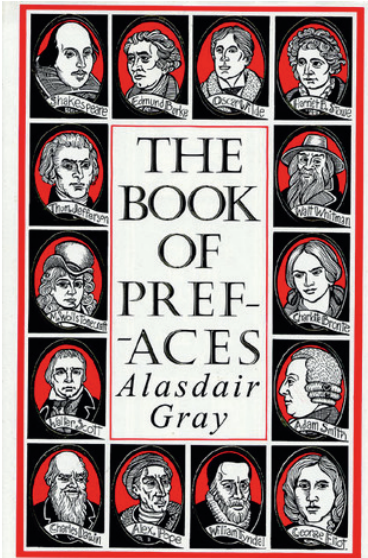
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: German
Setting: Europe
1500's



Publisher: Viking
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Yugoslavia, 19-20c

This unique and lively history of Balkan geopolitics since the early nineteenth century gives readers the essential historical background to recent events in this war-torn area. No other book covers the entire region, or offers such profound insights into the roots of Balkan violence, or explains so vividly the origins of modern Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, and Albania. Misha Glenny presents a lucid and fair-minded account of each national group in the Balkans and its struggle for statehood.

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction

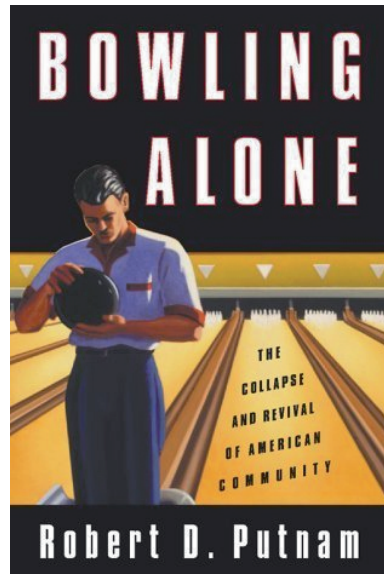


This book is a unique history of how literature spread and developed through three British nations and most North American states. This anthology gathers the work of great writers such as Geoffrey Chaucer, Lewis Carroll, John Milton, Edgar Allan Poe, and many more. The Book of Prefaces offers an unusual and unprecedented look at literature, a treat for any reader.



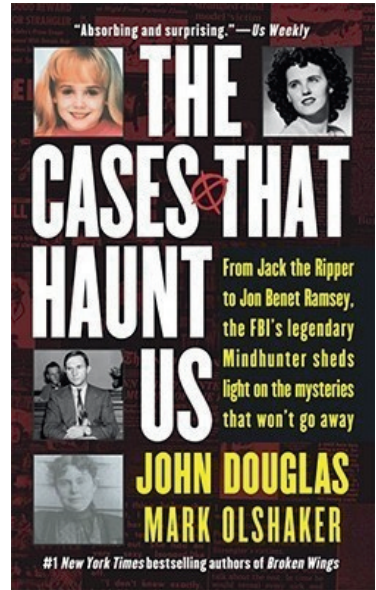
Publisher: Bloomsbury
 Ethnicity: Scottish
 Setting: English speaking world

Bowling Alone surveys in detail Americans' changing behavior over the decades, showing how we have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and social structures, whether it's with the PTA, church, clubs, political parties, or bowling leagues. Putnam shows how our shrinking access to the "social capital" that is the reward of communal activity and community sharing still poses a serious threat to our civic and personal health, and how these consequences have a new resonance for our divided country today.

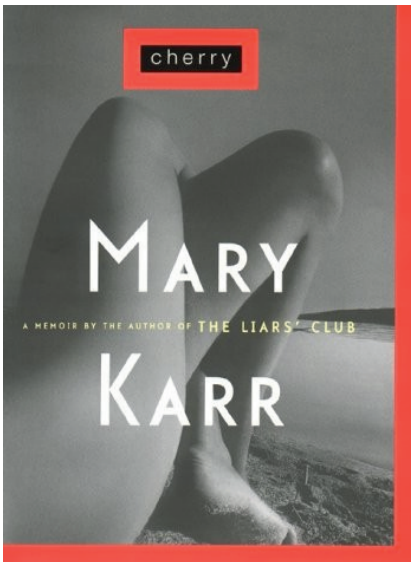


Publisher: Simon & Schuster
 Ethnicity: American
 Setting: USA 1950-2000

America's foremost expert on criminal profiling and twenty-five-year FBI veteran John Douglas, along with author and filmmaker Mark Olshaker, explores those tantalizing questions and more in this mesmerizing work of detection. With uniquely gripping analysis, the authors reexamine and reinterpret the accepted facts, evidence, and victimology of the most notorious murder cases in the history of crime, including the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, the Zodiac Killer, and the Whitechapel murders. Utilizing techniques developed by Douglas himself, they give detailed profiles and reveal chief suspects in pursuit of what really happened in each case.



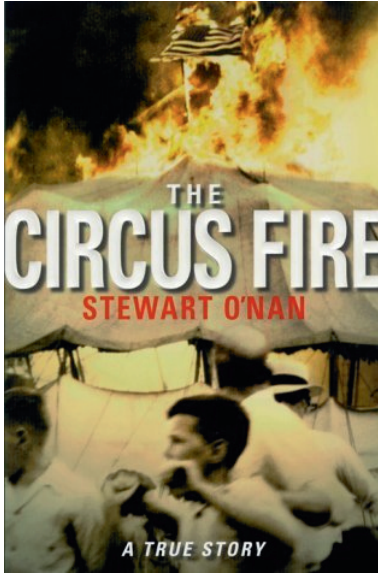
Publisher: Scribner
 Ethnicity: American
 Setting: USA 20th Century



Publisher: Viking
 Ethnicity: American
 Setting: USA 1970's

This memoir of adolescence follows the earlier volume by Mary Karr, *The Liars' Club*. In *Cherry*, we find Karr once again trying to run from the thrills and terrors of her psychological and physical awakening by violently crashing up against authority in all its forms, shuttling between the principal's office and the jail cell. Yearning, like a typical teenager, for the ideal love or heart's companion who will make her feel whole again, she throws in her lot with a varied and outrageous band: surfers, yogis and bona fide geniuses.

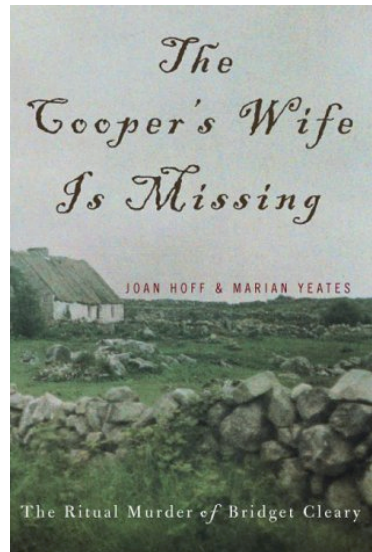
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Doubleday
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Hartford 1944

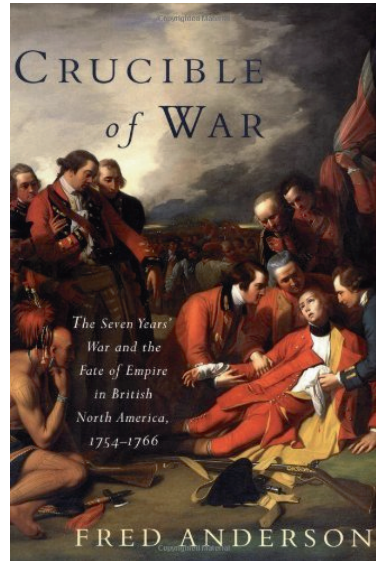
Halfway through a midsummer afternoon performance, Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus's big top caught fire. The tent had been waterproofed with a mixture of paraffin and gasoline; in seconds it was burning out of control, and more than 8,000 people were trapped inside. Drawing on interviews with hundreds of survivors, O'Nan skillfully re-creates the horrific events and illuminates the psychological oddities of human behavior under the mad scramble for the exits; the hero who tossed dozens of children to safety before being trampled to death.

In 1895 twenty-six-year-old Bridget Cleary disappeared from her cottage in rural County Tipperary and remained missing for several days. At last her body was discovered, bent, broken, and badly burned in a shallow grave. Within a few days, her unimaginable story came to light: for almost a week before her death she had been confined, starved, threatened, physically and verbally abused, exorcised, and finally burned to death by her husband, father, aunt, cousins, and neighbors, who had collectively confused a simple flu with possession by the fairies.

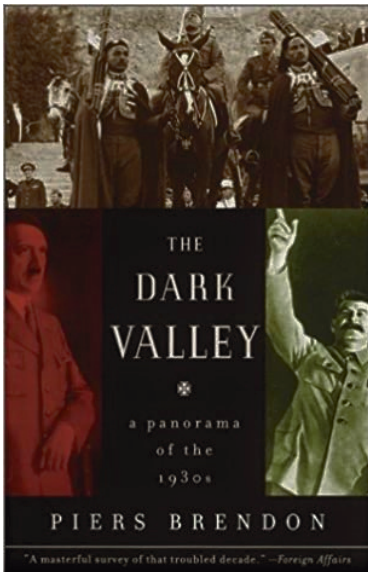


Publisher: Basic Books
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Ireland, 1895

In this engrossing narrative of the great military conflagration of the mid-eighteenth century, Fred Anderson transports us into the maelstrom of international rivalries. With the Seven Years' War, Great Britain decisively eliminated French power north of the Caribbean — and in the process destroyed an American diplomatic system in which Native Americans had long played a central, balancing role — permanently changing the political and cultural landscape of North America.



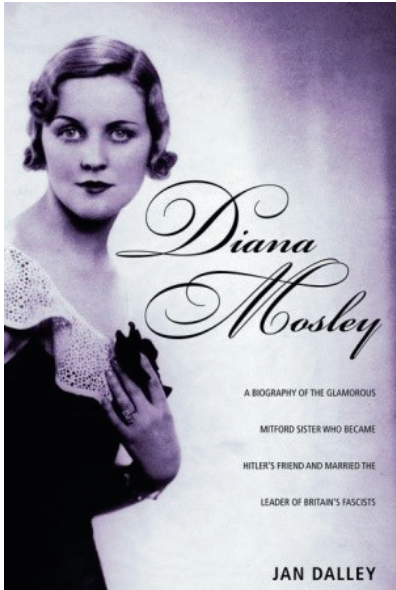
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: USA 1754



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Europe 1930's

From Stalinist pogroms to New Deal programs, Brendon re-creates the full scope of a slow international descent towards war. Offering perfect sketches of the players, riveting descriptions of major events and crises, and telling details from everyday life, he offers both a grand, rousing narrative and an intimate portrait of an era that make sense out of the fascinating, complicated, and profoundly influential years of the 1930s.

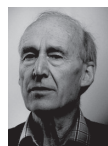
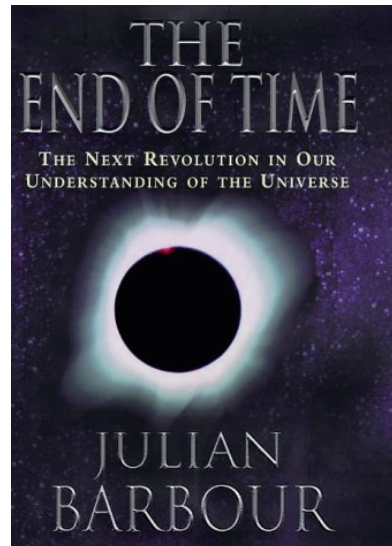
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Germany 1930's

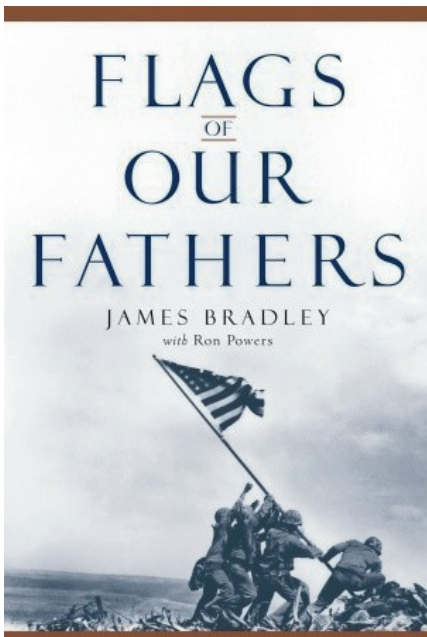
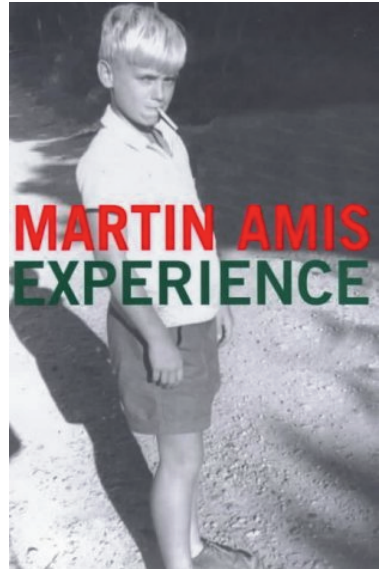
Married at eighteen into the enormously wealthy Guinness family, Diana had it all -- brains, beauty, social position and money. She bore two sons and created a sparkling society circle that included such artists and intellectuals of the interwar years as Cecil Beaton, Lytton Strachey and Evelyn Waugh (who dedicated *Vile Bodies* to her). But after only three years she was swept up in the love affair that would change her with Sir Oswald Mosley, MP, womanizer and charismatic founder of the British Union of Fascists.

Time is an illusion. Although the laws of physics create a powerful impression that time is flowing, in fact there are only timeless 'nows'. In *The End of Time*, the British theoretical physicist Julian Barbour describes the coming revolution in our understanding of the a quantum theory of the universe that brings together Einstein's general theory of relativity – which denies the existence of a unique time – and quantum mechanics – which demands one. Barbour believes that only the most radical of ideas can resolve the conflict between these two that there is, quite literally, no time at all.



Publisher: Oxford
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Present day

Martin Amis is perhaps the most gifted novelist of his generation. His prose refashions the English language into a lean and brilliant instrument, dazzling readers with its energy and wit. His novels and short stories chart a world that is uniquely his: as John Updike puts it, 'Amis is trying to construct a large, reaching, ambitious set of books - trying to cover the world in fiction'. His celebrity as a novelist is also unique - few writers have attracted such obsessive media attention.



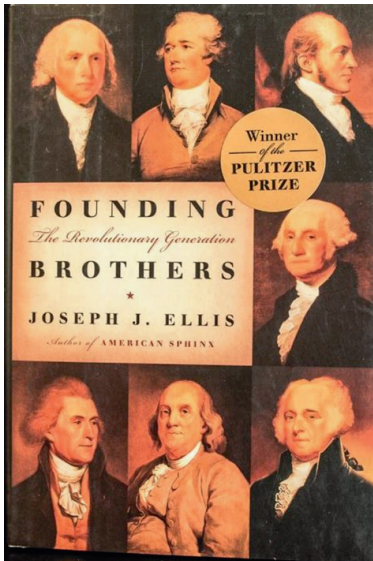
Publisher: Bantam
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Japan, 1945



Publisher: Miramax
Ethnicity: British
Setting: England 20th c.

In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima—and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island's highest peak. And after climbing through a landscape of hell itself, they raised a flag. Now the son of one of the flagraisers has written a powerful account of six very different young men who came together in a moment that will live forever. To his family, John Bradley never spoke of the photograph or the war.

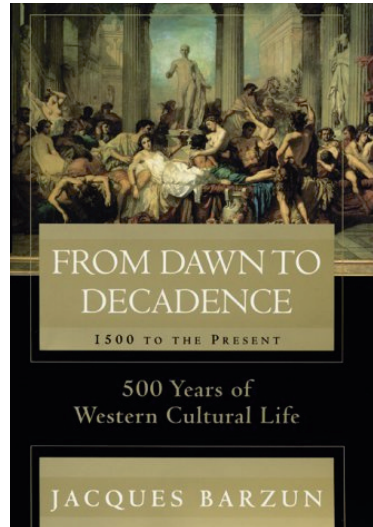
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Knopf
 Ethnicity: American
 Setting: USA 1776

In retrospect, it seems as if the American Revolution was inevitable. But was it? In *Founding Brothers*, Joseph J. Ellis reveals that many of those truths we hold to be self-evident were actually fiercely contested in the early days of the republic. Ellis focuses on six crucial moments in the life of the new nation, including a secret dinner at which the seat of the nation's capital was determined—in exchange for support of Hamilton's financial plan; Washington's precedent-setting Farewell Address; and the Hamilton and Burr duel. Most interesting, perhaps, is the debate (still dividing scholars today) over the meaning of the Revolution.

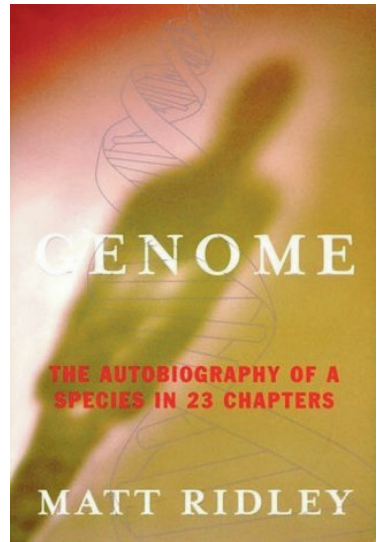
The triumphs and defeats of five hundred years form an inspiring saga that modifies the current impression of one long tale of oppression by white European males. Women and their deeds are prominent, and freedom (even in sexual matters) is not an invention of the last decades. And when Barzun rates the present not as a culmination but a decline, he is in no way a prophet of doom. Instead, he shows decadence as the creative novelty that will burst forth—tomorrow or the next day.



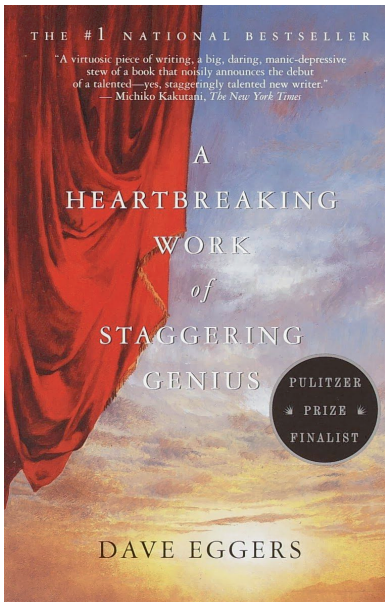
Publisher: Harper
 Ethnicity: French
 Setting: Europe 1500-2000

Zeitgeist: 2000

By picking one newly discovered gene from each pair of chromosomes and telling its story, Matt Ridley recounts the history of our species and its ancestors from the dawn of life to the brink of future medicine. From Huntington's disease to cancer, from the applications of gene therapy to the horrors of eugenics, Ridley probes the scientific, philosophical, and moral issues arising as a result of the mapping of the genome. It will help you understand what this scientific milestone means for you, for your children, and for humankind.



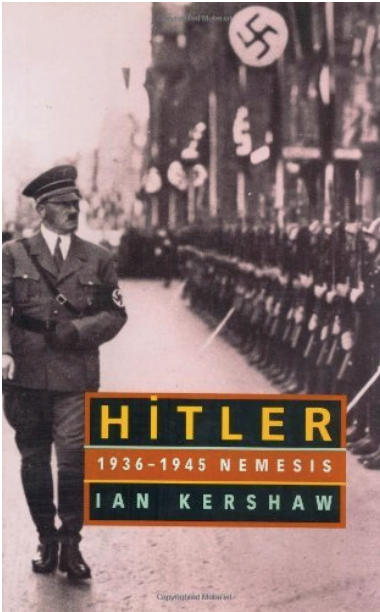
Publisher: Harper
Ethnicity: British
Setting: USA 2000



Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Ethnicity: American
Setting: USA 1990's

A book that redefines both family and narrative for the twenty-first century. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* is the moving memoir of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother. Here is an exhilarating debut that manages to be simultaneously hilarious and wildly inventive as well as a deeply heartfelt story of the love that holds a family together. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* is an instant classic that will be read for decades to come.

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction

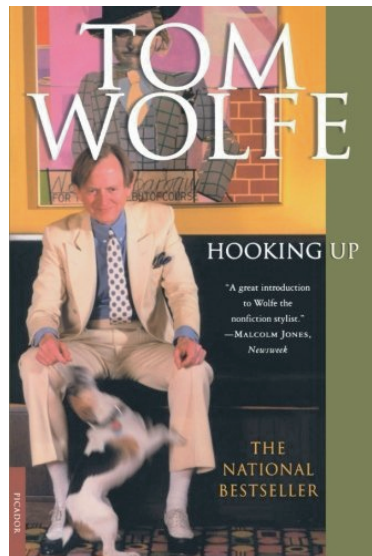


Following the enormous success of *HITLER: HUBRIS* this book triumphantly completes one of the great modern biographies. No figure in twentieth century history more clearly demands a close biographical understanding than Adolf Hitler; and no period is more important than the Second World War. Beginning with Hitler's startling European successes in the aftermath of the Rhineland occupation and ending nine years later with the suicide in the Berlin bunker, Kershaw allows us as never before to understand the motivation and the impact of this bizarre misfit.



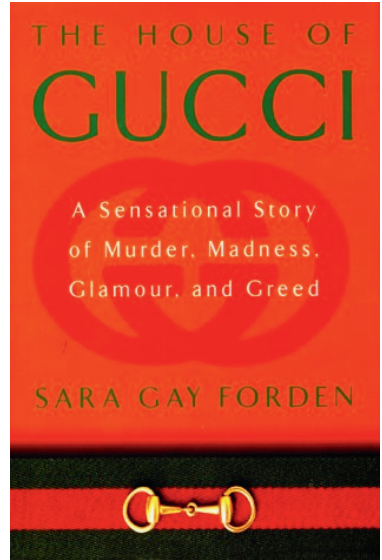
Publisher: Norton
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Germany 1936-45

But investigation soon reveals an oleo of reportage, fiction, and acrimonious name-calling. The latter, of course, makes for the best reading. In "My Three Stooges," Wolfe reviles the three big men of American letters--Updike, Mailer, and Irving--who cast aspersions on his second novel. Apparently, "the allergens for jealousy were present. Both Updike and Mailer had books out at the same time as *A Man in Full*, and theirs had sunk without a bubble. With Irving there was the Dickens factor."

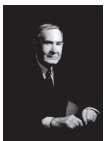
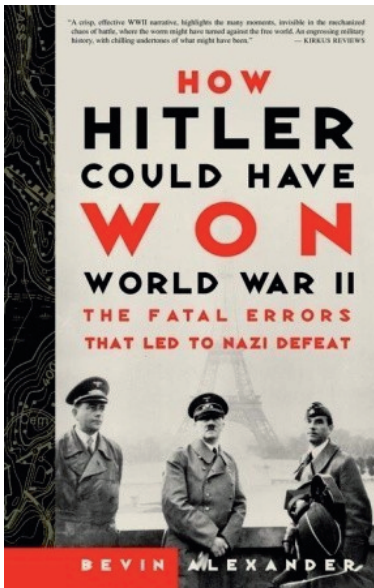


Publisher: Farrar
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America 1990's

The sensational true story of murder, madness, glamour, and greed that shook the Gucci dynasty, now fully updated with a new afterword. On March 27, 1995, Maurizio Gucci, heir to the fabulous fashion dynasty, was slain by an unknown gunman as he approached his Milan office. In 1998, his ex-wife Patrizia Reggiani Martinelli--nicknamed "The Black Widow" by the press--was sentenced to 29 years in prison, for arranging his murder. Did Patrizia murder her ex-husband because his spending was wildly out of control?



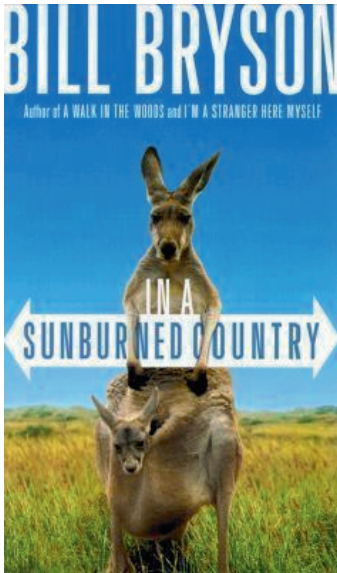
Publisher: Morrow
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Italy 1990's



Publisher: Crown
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Germany WW2

Most of us rally around the glory of the Allies' victory over the Nazis in World War II. The story is often told of how the good fight was won by an astonishing array of manpower and stunning tactics. However, what is often overlooked is how the intersection between Adolf Hitler's influential personality and his military strategy was critical in causing Germany to lose the war. With an acute eye for detail and his use of clear prose, Bevin Alexander goes beyond counterfactual "What if?" history and explores for the first time just how close the Allies were to losing the war.

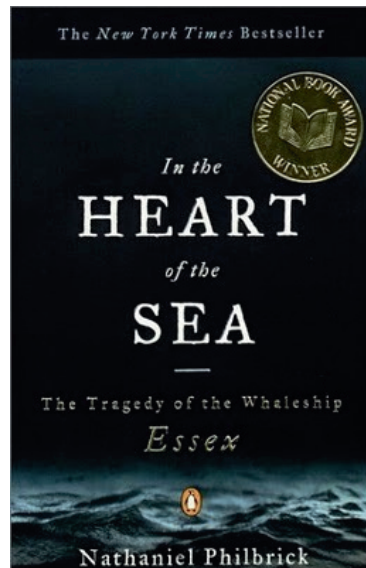
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Broadway
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Australia 1990's

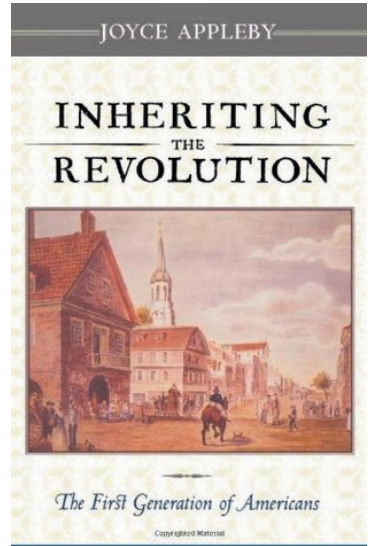
It is the driest, flattest, hottest, most desiccated, infertile and climatically aggressive of all the inhabited continents and still Australia teems with life – a large portion of it quite deadly. In fact, Australia has more things that can kill you in a very nasty way than anywhere else. Ignoring such dangers – and yet curiously obsessed by them – Bill Bryson journeyed to Australia and promptly fell in love with the country. And who can blame him? The people are cheerful, extrovert, quick-witted and unfailingly obliging: their cities are safe and clean and nearly always built on water; the food is excellent; the beer is cold and the sun nearly always shines.

In the Heart of the Sea brings to new life the incredible story of the wreck of the whaleship *Essex* - an event as mythic in its own century as the Titanic disaster in ours, and the inspiration for the climax of *Moby-Dick*. In a harrowing page-turner, Nathaniel Philbrick restores this epic story to its rightful place in American history. In 1820, the 240-ton *Essex* set sail from Nantucket on a routine voyage for whales. Fifteen months later, in the farthest reaches of the South Pacific, it was repeatedly rammed and sunk by an eighty-ton bull sperm whale.

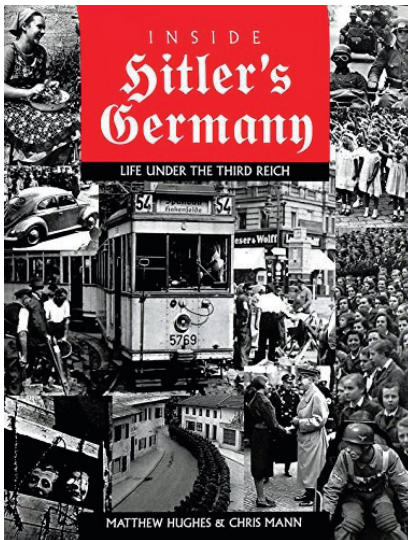


Publisher: Viking
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Nantucket, 1820

These are the people we encounter in *Inheriting the Revolution*, a vibrant tapestry of the lives, callings, decisions, desires, and reflections of those Americans who turned the new abstractions of democracy, the nation, and free enterprise into contested realities. Through data gathered on thousands of people, as well as hundreds of memoirs and autobiographies, Joyce Appleby tells myriad intersecting stories of how Americans born between 1776 and 1830 reinvented themselves and their society in politics, economics, reform, religion, and culture.



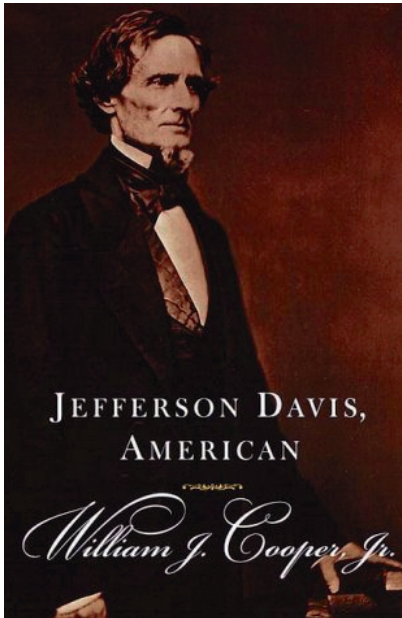
Publisher: Harvard
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America 1780



Publisher: U. of Nebraska
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Germany 1934-45

This is a highly illustrated account of the rise of Adolph Hitler and the prewar National Socialist movement, the Nazi government, and life in Germany during World War II. The book examines all aspects of life under the Nazis by drawing upon the personal experiences of ordinary German soldiers and civilians. In this way the book provides a unique insight into what life was like in a totalitarian society, how organizations such as the SS and Gestapo impinged upon people's lives, and the affect Nazi rule had on the economy, culture, and women's rights.

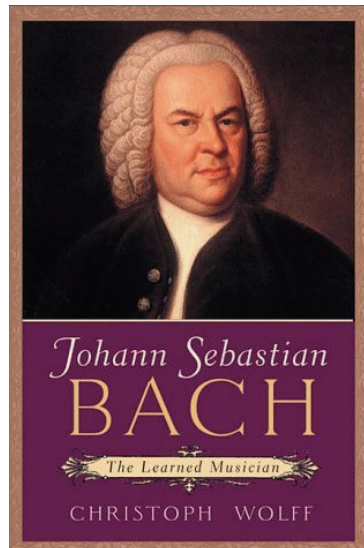
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America 1861

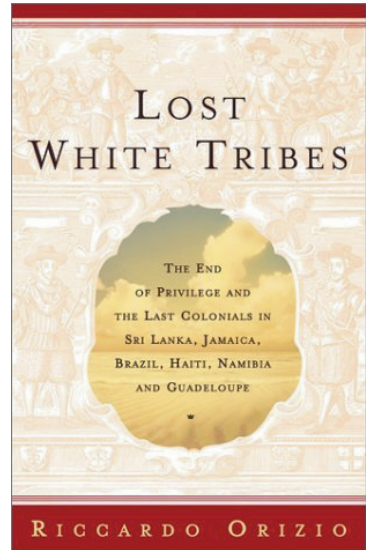
West Point graduate, secretary of war under President Pierce, U.S. Senator from Mississippi—how was it that this statesman and patriot came to be president of the Confederacy, leading the struggle to destroy the United States? This is the question at the center of William Cooper's engrossing and authoritative biography of Jefferson Davis. Basing his account on the massive archival record left by Davis and his family and associates, Cooper delves not only into the events of Davis's public and personal life but also into the ideas that shaped and compelled him.

Although we have heard the music of J. S. Bach in countless performances and recordings, the composer himself still comes across only as an enigmatic figure in a single familiar portrait. As we mark the 250th anniversary of Bach's death, author Christoph Wolff presents a new picture that brings to life this towering figure of the Baroque era. This engaging new biography portrays Bach as the living, breathing, and sometimes imperfect human being that he was, while bringing to bear all the advances of the last half-century of Bach scholarship.



Publisher: W. W. Norton
Ethnicity: German
Setting: Germany, 1700

Among the descendants of the colonizing powers, however, were some who had become outcasts in the poorest strata of society and, unable to afford the long journey home, were left behind, ignored by both the former oppressed indigenous population and the modern privileged white immigrants. At the dawn of the twenty-first century these lost white tribes still hold out, tucked away in remote valleys and hills or in the midst of burgeoning metropolises, living in poverty while tending the myths of their colonial ancestors.



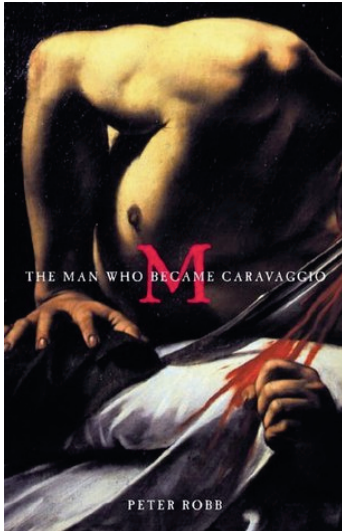
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Ethnicity: Italian
Setting: Global, 2000



Publisher: Random House
Ethnicity: American
Setting: America 1980's

Lying chronicles the doctors, the tests, the seizures, the family embarrassments, even as it explores a sensitive child's illness as both metaphor and a means of attention-getting--a human being's susceptibility to malady, and to storytelling as an act of healing and as part of the quest for love. This mesmerizing memoir openly questions the reliability of memoir itself, the trickiness of the mind in perceiving reality, the slippery nature of illness and diagnosis--the shifting perceptions and images of who we are and what is the matter with us. Lauren Slater forces us to redraw the boundary between what we know as fact and what we believe we create as fiction.

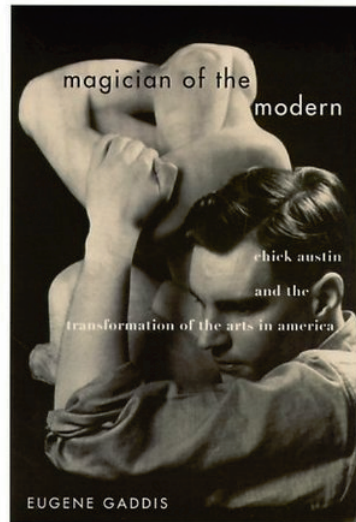
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Henry Holt
Ethnicity: Australian
Setting: Italy 1570's

As presented with "blood and bone and sinew" (Times Literary Supplement) by Peter Robb, Caravaggio's wild and tempestuous life was a provocation to a culture in a state of siege. The of the sixteenth century was marked by the Inquisition and Counter-Reformation, a background of ideological cold war against which, despite all odds and at great cost to their creators, brilliant feats of art and science were achieved. No artist captured the dark, violent spirit of the time better than Caravaggio, variously known as Marisi, Moriggia, Merigi, and sometimes, simply M.

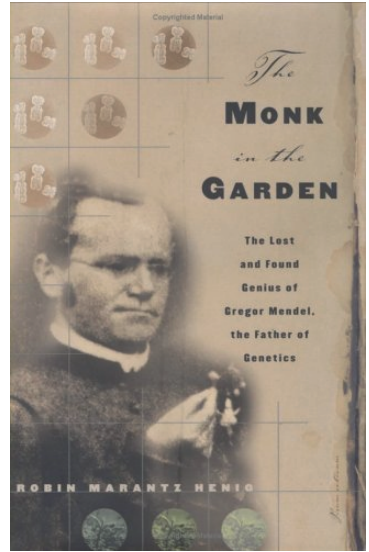
The first in the United States to mount a major Picasso retrospective, Austin was soon acquiring works by Dalí, Mondrian, Miró, Balthus, Max Ernst, and Alexander Calder. In the museum's new theater (which he designed), he staged the premiere of the revolutionary Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* (with an all-black cast). At Lincoln Kirstein's instigation, he brought Balanchine to America. And he embraced all the new art forms, making film, photography, architecture, and contemporary music part of the life of his museum.



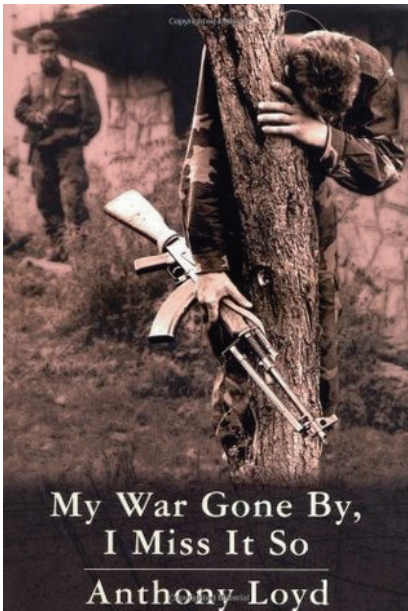
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Hartford CT, 1930's

Zeitgeist: 2000

In *The Monk in the Garden*, award-winning author Robin Marantz Henig vividly evokes a little-known chapter in science, taking us back to the birth of genetics, a field that continues to challenge the way we think about life itself. Shrouded in mystery, Gregor Mendel's quiet life and discoveries make for fascinating reading. Among his pea plants Henig finds a tale filled with intrigue, jealousy, and a healthy dose of bad timing. She "has done a remarkable job of fleshing out the myth with what few facts there are" and has delivered Mendel's story with grace and glittering prose.



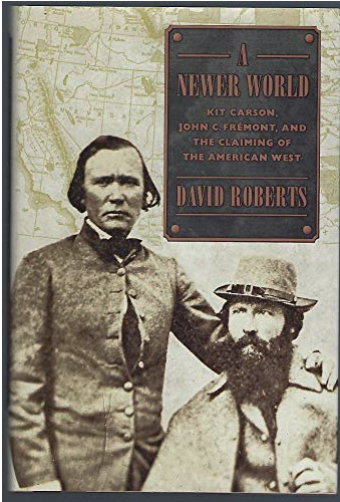
Publisher: Houghton
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Austria, 1800's



Publisher: Atlantic
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Yugoslavia 1992

Nothing can prepare you for Anthony Loyd's portrait of war. It is the story of the unspeakable terror and the visceral, ecstatic thrill of combat, and the lives and dreams laid to waste by the bloodiest conflict that Europe has witnessed since the Second World War. Born into a distinguished military family, Loyd was raised on the stories of his ancestors' exploits and grew up fascinated with war. Unsatisfied by a brief career in the British Army, he set out for the killing fields in Bosnia.

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



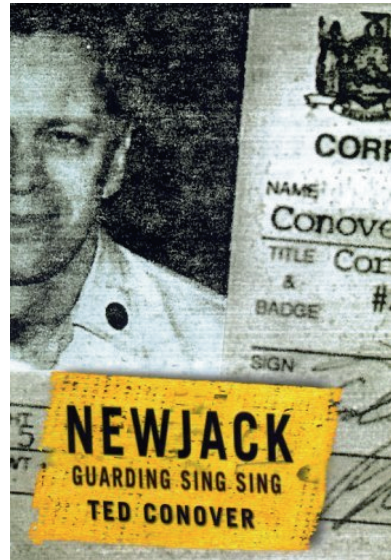
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Ethnicity: American

Setting: American West, 1840's

Ted Conover, the intrepid author of *Coyotes*, about the world of illegal Mexican immigrants, spent a year as a prison guard at Sing Sing. *Newjack*, his account of that experience, is a milestone in American a book that casts new and unexpected light on this nation's prison crisis and sets a new standard for courageous, in-depth reporting. At the infamous Sing Sing, once a model prison but now New York State's most troubled maximum-security facility, Conover goes to work as a gallery officer, working shifts in which he alone must supervise scores of violent inner-city felons. He soon learns the impossibility of doing his job by the book.

Between 1842 and 1854 John C. Frémont, renowned as the nineteenth century's greatest explorer, and Kit Carson, the legendary scout and Indian fighter, boldly ventured into untamed territory to fulfill America's "manifest destiny." Drawing on little-known primary sources, as well as his own travels through the lands Frémont and Carson explored, David Roberts recreates their expeditions, second in significance only to those of Lewis and Clark. This a harrowing narrative of hardship and adventure and a poignant reminder of the cultural tragedy that westward expansion inflicted on the Native American.

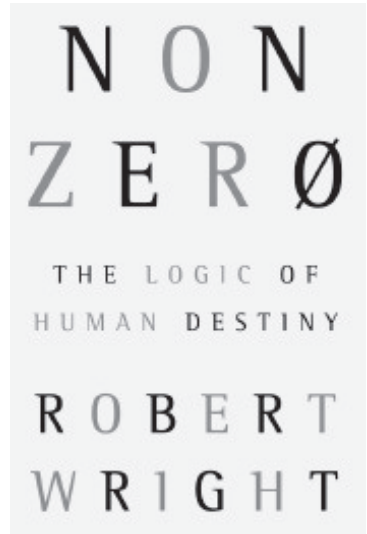


Publisher: Random House

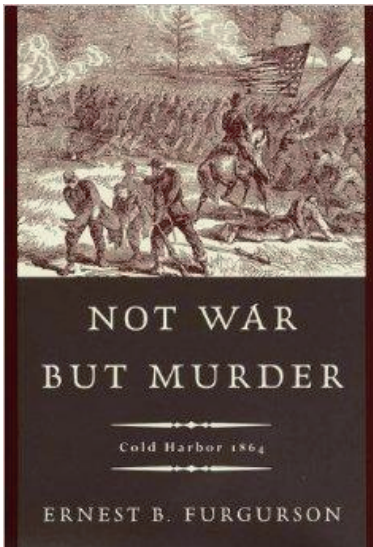
Ethnicity: American

Setting: New York, 1990's

In his bestselling *The Moral Animal*, Robert Wright applied the principles of evolutionary biology to the study of the human mind. Now Wright attempts something even more explaining the direction of evolution and human history—and discerning where history will lead us next. In *The Logic of Human Destiny*, Wright asserts that, ever since the primordial ooze, life has followed a basic pattern. Organisms and human societies alike have grown more complex by mastering the challenges of internal cooperation.



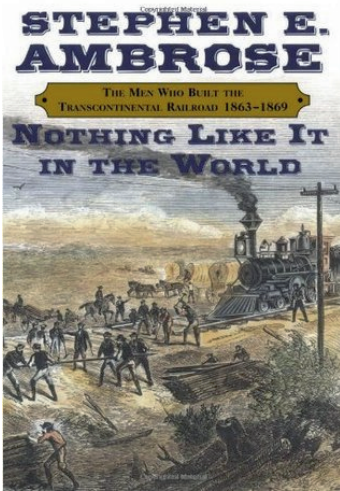
Publisher: Pantheon
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Global, 1990's



Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Civil War, 1864

In June of 1864, the Army of the Potomac attacked heavily entrenched Confederate forces outside of Richmond, hoping to break the strength of Robert E. Lee and take the capital. Facing almost certain death, Union soldiers pinned their names to their uniforms in the forlorn hope that their bodies would be identified and buried. Furgurson sheds new light on the personal conflicts that led to Grant's worst defeat and argues that it was a watershed moment in the war. Offering a panorama rich in detail and revealing anecdotes that brings the dark days of the campaign to life, this book is historical narrative as compelling as any novel.

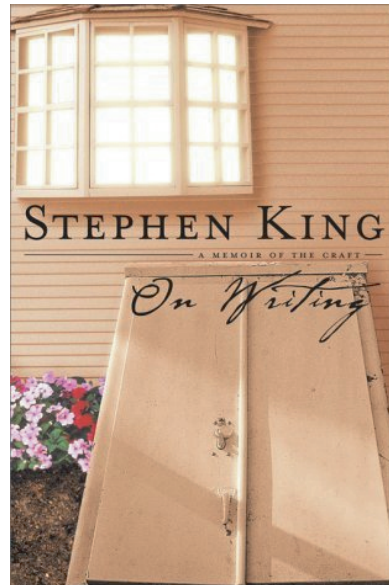
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Ethnicity: American
Setting: USA, 1860's

Nothing Like It in the World gives the account of an unprecedented feat of engineering, vision, and courage. It is the story of the men who built the transcontinental railroad—the investors who risked their businesses and money; the enlightened politicians who understood its importance; the engineers and surveyors who risked, and sometimes lost, their lives; and the Irish and Chinese immigrants, the defeated Confederate soldiers, and the other laborers who did the backbreaking and dangerous work on the tracks.

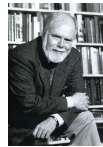
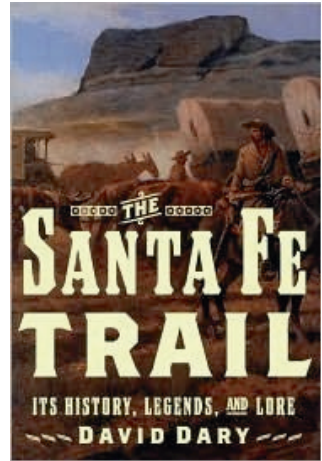
Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported near-fatal accident in 1999 -- and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery.



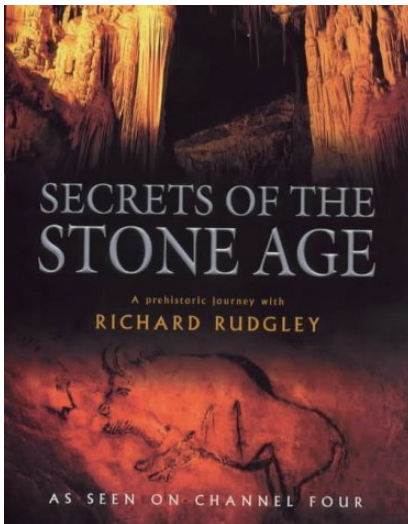
Publisher: Scribner
Ethnicity: American
Setting: USA 1950's

Zeitgeist: 2000

From 1610, when the Spanish founded the city of Santa Fe, to the 1860s, when the railroad brought unprecedented changes: here is the full, fascinating story of the great Santa Fe Trail which ran between Missouri and Kansas and New Mexico--a lifeline to and from the Southwest for more than two centuries. Drawing from letters, journals, expedition reports, business records, and newspaper stories, David Dary--one of our foremost historians of the Old West--brings to life the people who laid down the trail and opened commerce with Spanish America.



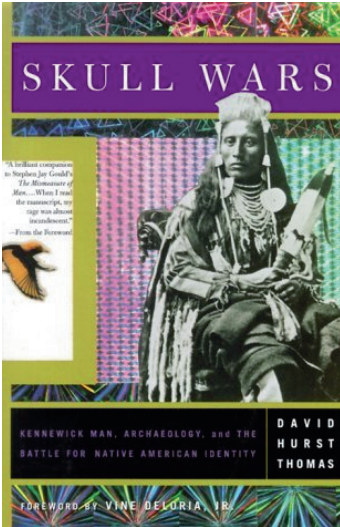
Publisher: Knopf
Ethnicity: American
Setting: Southwest US,
1600-1900



Publisher: Century
Ethnicity: English
Setting: Europe, 5000 bc

A thousand years before the pharaohs erected their pyramids, prehistoric people on the tiny Mediterranean island of Gozo were building megalithic temples - the world's oldest stone buildings. Startling new research on the 5,300 year old Ice Man, whose body was found a few years ago in an Alpine glacier, reveals that acupuncture was practised in prehistoric Europe long before it began in China. The popular view of Stone Age man as a primitive and ignorant forerunner of ourselves is shattered as Richard Rudgley reveals the myriad and remarkable accomplishments made before the dawn of history.

Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Basic Books

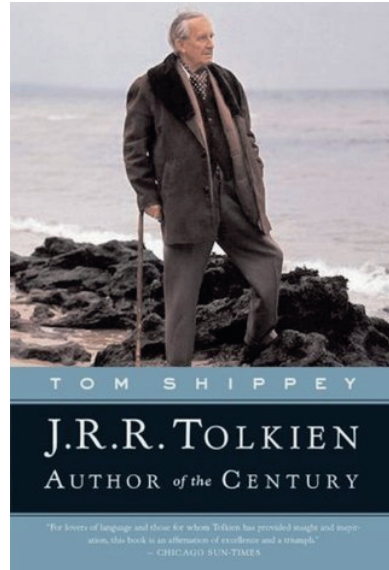
Ethnicity: American

Setting: Washington, 1996

The 1996 discovery, near Kennewick, Washington, of a 9,000-year-old Caucasoid skeleton brought more to the surface than bones. The explosive controversy and resulting lawsuit also raised a far more fundamental question: Who owns history? Many Indians see archeologists as desecrators of tribal rites and traditions; archeologists see their livelihoods and science threatened by the 1990 Federal reparation law, which gives tribes control over remains in their traditional territories. In this new work, Thomas charts the riveting story of this lawsuit, the archeologists' deteriorating relations with American Indians, and the rise of scientific archeology.

Recent polls have consistently declared that J.R.R. Tolkien is "the most influential author of the century," and *The Lord of the Rings* is "the book of the century." In support of these claims, the prominent medievalist and scholar of fantasy Professor Tom Shippey now presents us with a fascinating companion to the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, focusing in particular on *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion*.

The core of the book examines *The Lord of the Rings* as a linguistic and cultural map and as a response to the meaning of myth.

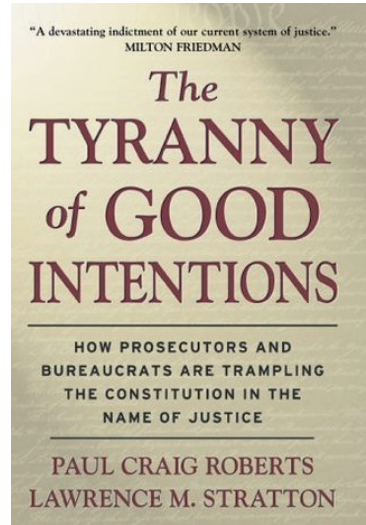


Publisher: Harper

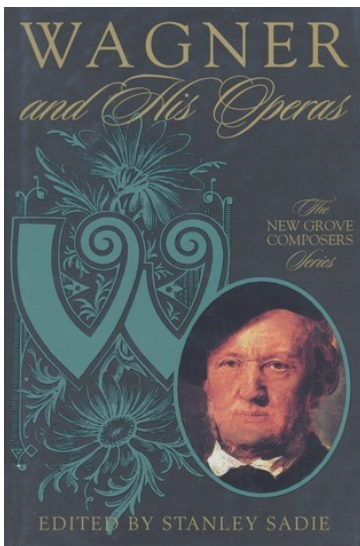
Ethnicity: American

Setting: UK, 1950's

A thousand years of legal protections against tyranny are being stolen right before our eyes. Under the guise of good intentions, personal liberties as old as the Magna Carta have become casualties in the wars being waged on pollution, drugs, white-collar crime, and all of the other real and imagined social ills. The innocent people caught up in a bureaucratic web that destroys lives and livelihoods; businesses shuttered because of victimless infractions; a justice system that values coerced pleas over the search for truth; bullying police agencies empowered to confiscate property without due process.



Publisher: Prima
Author: American
Setting: USA, 1990's



Publisher: St. Martin's
Ethnicity: British
Setting: Germany 1800's

Wagner and his Operas brings together in one affordable volume the story of Richard Wagner's life and career, and synopses and authoritative appreciations of all his operas from *Die Feen* ('The Fairies') to *Die Walküre* ('The Valkyrie'). A chronological table will help the reader to situate Wagner's operas in the wider context of his life and career, and a glossary will provide readers with concise and informative explanations of any operatic terms used in the text. Generously illustrated, *Wagner and his Operas* will be an enjoyable and enlightening read for opera lovers of all levels.

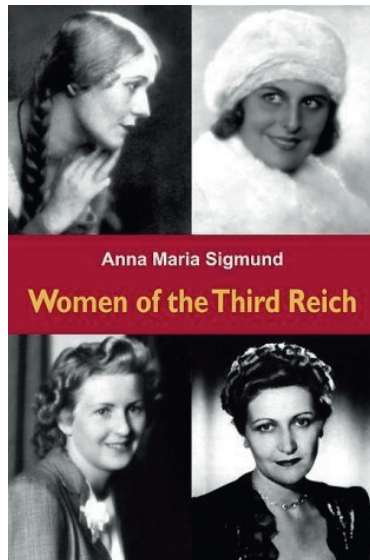
Top 50 Novels & Non-Fiction



Publisher: Johns Hopkins
Ethnicity: American
Setting: USA 1990's

Although the white separatist movement stereotype is that of a Southern phenomenon tied to an uneducated and disenfranchised segment of men, sociologists Betty A. Dobratz and Stephanie L. Shanks-Meile show that the movement is in reality more complex and multifaceted. To compile this study, the authors interviewed more than 125 white separatists, attended rallies, congresses, and other gatherings, and examined many movement-generated documents. The result is a compelling book that chronicles the history, ideology, and strategies of the white separatist movement.

This groundbreaking work examines the official Nazi portrayal of women in the Third Reich as well as the real lives of eight women who were a part of the Nazi regime or played a role in its ascendancy. Many women in German high society were fascinated by Adolf Hitler and helped him to achieve political power, while women like filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl were fueling Hitler's propaganda machine. Also explored are Magda Goebbels's complicity in the murder of her six children in 1945, Carin and Emmy Goering's relations with their morphine-addicted husbands, and the knowledge that Margaret Himmler had of her husband's actions as leader of the SS.



Publisher: NDE
Ethnicity: German
Setting: Germany 1930's